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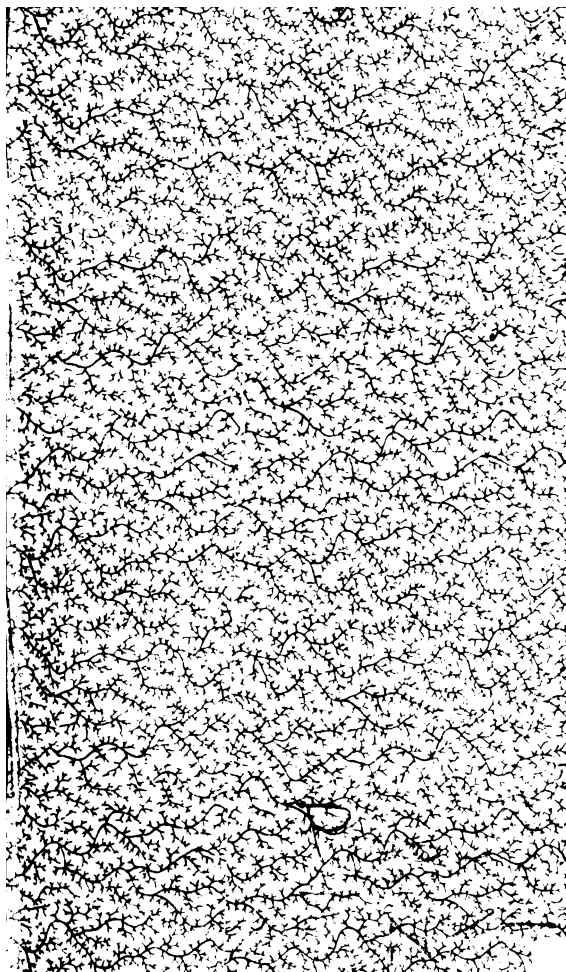
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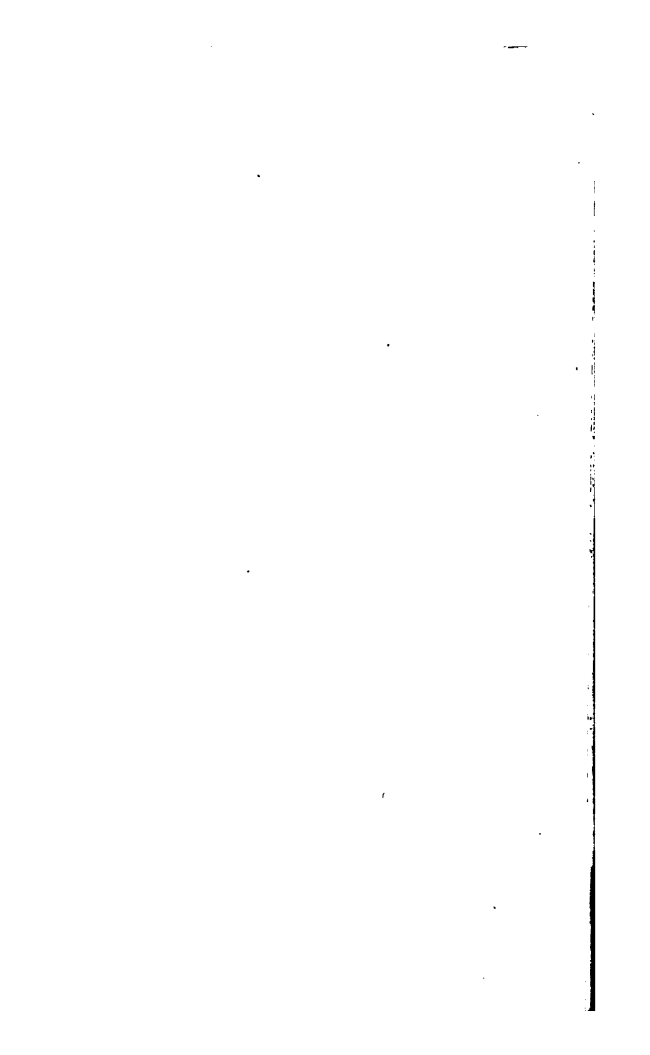
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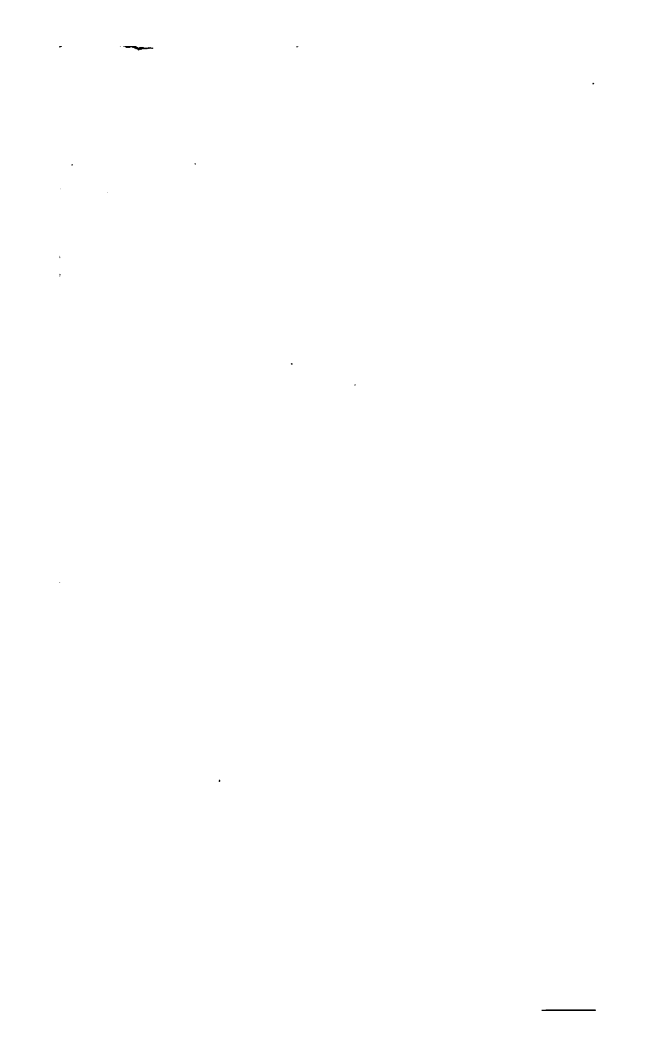
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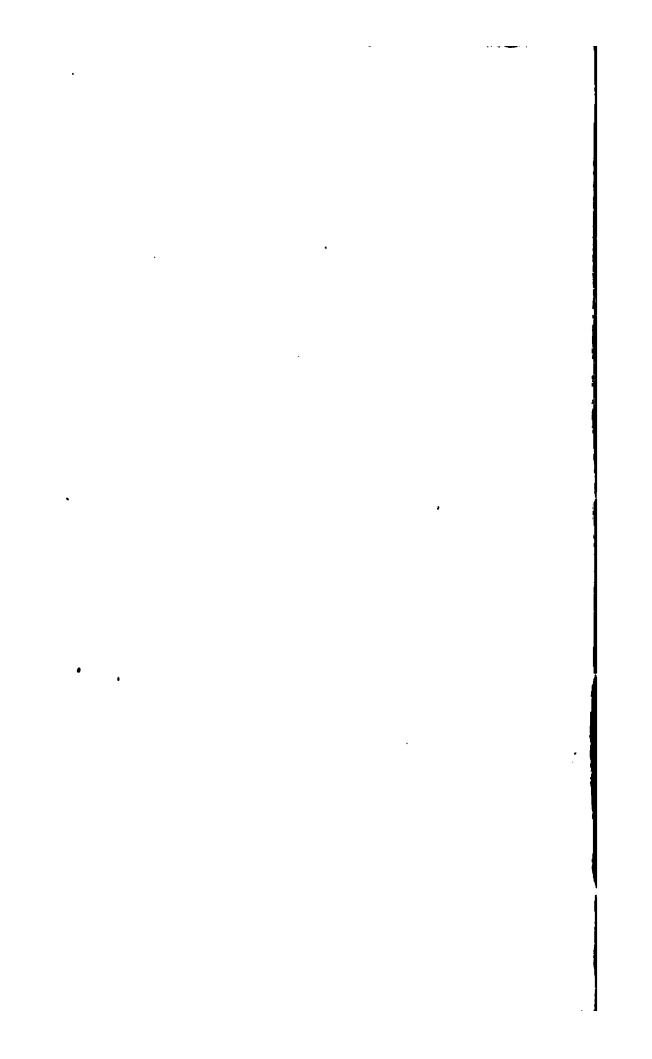


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THEODORE,
OR
THE PERUVIANS;

TRANSLATED FROM

THE FRENCH OF
Charles Antoine Guillaume

PIGAULT LE BRUN.

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THEODORE.

THE maritime commerce of France may justly be said to owe its origin to the great Colbert, minister to Lewis the Fourteenth. Under the auspices of that prince, the merits of whose reign have been frequently discussed, he established, at immense expense, a colony at Pondicherry ; and some planters also were settled at St. Domingo. The fostering care of this minister would soon have given additional vigour to these feeble attempts, had not King William involved Lewis in a quarrel with Spain and other powers.

Scarcely had the war commenced, when the Dutch took possession of Pondicherry, and ruined the French mer-

chants trading to the East Indies ; whilst the English destroyed the plantations at St. Domingo. Du Guay Trouin, the greatest seaman France had ever produced, was, at that time, the commander of a small privateer ; but, possessed of a spirit of enterprize and a thirst for glory, the genuine characteristics of the hero, he undertook to avenge the insults offered to the French flag.

A frigate and two corvettes were equipped at the joint expense of his relations, who were merchants at St. Maloes ; and Du Guay Trouin, ardently desirous of distinguishing himself, sailed in quest of the enemies of his country. We must not however attempt to follow this officer through his glorious career. but direct our attention to the hero, whose adventures form the subject of this narrative.

On board one of the corvettes was a youth of St. Maloes, who, to the bravery natural to his countrymen, united remarkable beauty of person and all the sense and spirit of a French chevalier.

The vessel, in which Theodore sailed, separated from the squadron in a thick fog. Du Guay Trouin had declared his intention of combining his force with that of Mons. de Pointis at Tortola; who was preparing to attack the Spaniards, and had it in contemplation to surprise and pillage Carthagená. Mons. de Forville, therefore, Theodore's captain, steered directly for the Antilles, fully expecting, sooner or later, to rejoin the commander in chief.

Near the tropic they were overtaken by a tremendous storm, which drove their ship far into the Southern Ocean. The thunder and rain continued, with-

out ceasing, for a whole week ; and the thick darkness, added to the confusion inseparable from imminent danger, prevented them from taking the latitude. The fury of the tempest having abated, they endeavoured to ascertain how far they had been driven, and found themselves, to their great surprise in the midst of the Pacific Ocean ; of which navigators were as yet acquainted with that part only which laves the coasts of Peru. These hostile coasts seemed now the only refuge for their shattered bark, unable much longer to keep the sea.

To request relief of enemies was an idea at which the soul of Mons. de Forville revolted ; but, influenced more by the suggestions of humanity than the voice of glory, he determined to surrender his vessel at the first Spanish port. Theodore, unable to conceive captivity

could be preferable to death, ventured for the first time to oppose the opinion of his commander. Having discovered the island of Socoro, near that of Chiloe, he advised that, if they could find a convenient harbour, they should take shelter there, and put their ship into complete repair. It would be always easy, he represented, to surrender, and nothing would be lost by deliberation. Such were his enthusiasm and eloquence, so noble and animated his figure, that their concurrence was soon obtained; and a sailor, twenty years of age, had the honour of persuading the most consummate officers and seamen.

They were within a few leagues of the island, when they discovered a Spanish frigate. Forville, notwithstanding his inferiority, would not have hesitated to attack her, had his vessel been ma-

nageable ; but, distrusting his own opinion, he again called a council of war, and was astonished at the resolution of his officers. They had caught the enthusiasm of Theodore ; who proposed waiting for the frigate, and boldly attempting to board her. The cooler judgment of the commander disapproved of the rashness of the design ; but his bravery would not permit him to oppose it. Theodore, his eyes sparkling with joy, and a battle axe in his hand, took his post on the deck ; expecting with impatience the signal of attack.

The frigate bore down upon them under a press of sail : she had the advantage of the wind, and, retaining her fire till within half cannon-shot, commenced the action. When Mons. de Forville found it impossible to board, he gave up all for lost, and determined

to die as became a Frenchman. Some of his guns had been thrown overboard, during the storm, for the sake of lightening the ship ; and the slowness of his manœuvres rendered the fire of his remaining pieces uncertain and ineffectual. He continued, however, obstinately to return the incessant and well directed discharges of the Spaniards ; till his vessel, pierced through and through, gave strong indications of sinking. The intrepid Theodore was himself obliged to strike the colours ; but, rather than let them fall into the hands of the Spaniards, he committed them to the flames.

The conflict having ceased, the conquerors no longer viewed the vanquished as enemies, but unhappy victims on the point of being ingulphed in the remorseless bowels of the ocean. Putting

out their boats, they received them into their own ship ; and endeavoured, by their care and attention, to obliterate the recollection of their defeat.

The Spanish Captain, who was of a generous disposition, would have set the Frenchmen at liberty, had not the laws of war forbid such an indulgence to men taken in arms. He, therefore, landed them at the port of Pisco, from whence they were conducted to Lima, the capital of Peru. The viceroy, affecting to imitate the conduct of the Captain, allowed the officers the range of the city for their prison ; and Theodore, who was of inferior rank, was indebted to the interest, excited by his appearance, for obtaining an equal indulgence.

A residence at Lima was calculated to corrupt a young man, who as yet had

seen nothing but St. Maloes and the ocean. This city had not then been visited by those dreadful earthquakes, which have since laid it in ruins. Its streets were paved with plates of silver; its palaces and publick buildings were erected with taste; and the river, which washed its walls was divided into canals, which distributing their streams through the city, accommodated the inhabitants, embellished their gardens, and fertilized their fields. Amidst the luxuries of this famous city, a month fled away in the intoxication of pleasure; but satiety at length succeeded; when Theodore, awakened by the voice of glory from the indolent and effeminate life he had lately led, resolved to renounce those enervating pleasures; and, listening to the suggestions of honour, determined to traverse the continent.

in hopes of joining Mons. de Pointis and du Guay Trouin before Carthagena.

The route was long and dangerous. Fatigue, hunger, the natural obstacles of the country, were all to be dreaded. Theodore took care to conceal from Mons. de Forville and his comrades a project, which success alone could justify. His only confidant was a young Peruvian, whom he had engaged as a servant, and to whom he was much attached. The docile and faithful Corambe secretly purchased two llamas to carry what his master had most valuable, and those necessaries indispensable in such a journey. As soon as it was dark, the two young men, taking a compass with them, stole away from Lima; and, carefully avoiding the inhabited places, directed their course towards the Gulph of Darien. By day they easi-

ly found good water and wild fruits. By night, a palm tree or cocoa defended them from the dew ; whilst the moss or fine grass supplied them with a couch, and their lamas with food.

On the twelfth day they arrived near Quito. Having made half their journey without any accident or uneasiness, they flattered themselves with the hope of concluding it happily, and of arriving in time to partake of the dangers and honours of the expedition prepared against Carthagena ; but it was destined to be otherwise.

Quito, one of the chief cities of the ancient empire of Peru, is situated at the foot of the Cordeliers. On the south a fertile and luxuriant plain, uniting the beauties of nature with the advantages of cultivation, spreads itself to an immense extent. It would have been im-

prudent to have ventured upon this plain, whose various culture announced a numerous population. Theodore, therefore, resolved to penetrate into the Cordeliers. Walking now became difficult and painful ; but he was resolute, and Corambe, though he suffered greatly was too much attached to his master, who treated him as his equal, to complain. The lamas, strong, patient and light, climbed the rocks with agility, and carried Theodore and Corambe in the most difficult passes.

They had already ascended high enough to have a complete view of the city of Quito, and of that immense plain which seemed spread below them like one magnificent garden. Believing they had no more risques to run, and following in a direct line the descent towards New Granada, they were engaged quiet-

ly in conversation ; when, at the turn of an enormous rock, they were struck with astonishment at the sight of a Spanish redoubt, and Theodore himself experienced a sensation approaching to fear. The rapid movements of the soldiers convinced them they were discovered. Twelve or fifteen men sallied from the fort, and, advancing directly towards them, left but a moment for deliberation: Theodore gave a handful of diamonds to Corambe, and embracing him, "Flee," said he, "you know the country ; be happy, and never forget me." They abandoned their lamas, and fled as swiftly as the inequality of the country would permit. Soon were they separated. They stopped, looked at each other, and bid farewell by a signal of the hand:

A beaten path presented itself before

Theodore. He fled with the swiftness of an arrow ; and the Spaniards pursued him with persevering obstinacy. The road led to the mines ; and the fort had been built to guard the treasures, and stop those who came without permission from the government or proprietors. Theodore was not a man who would hazard his life for the prospect of riches ; but the precautions, with which he advanced when he was discovered, his precipitate flight as soon as he thought himself perceived, the lamas which had been lightened by a twelve day's journey of almost all the provisions they carried, and which appeared designed for a more valuable load, all conspired to render the young man suspected.

Theodore, to whom the riches of the earth, which he scarcely seemed to touch, was unknown, attributed the

eagerness of the Spaniards to a thirst for blood. He; therefore, redoubled his speed; and gained considerably upon the men, who were incommoded by their arms. At the extremity of the path over which he appeared to fly, a second guard was placed: on seeing which, he instantly changed his route and fled over the rocks. Going on at all hazards, sometimes ascending, sometimes descending, now clinging by a hand and foot to a point of a rock which threatened to fall and crush him, then passing a ravin or swimming a torrent; he concealed himself, for an instant, from the Spaniards, whom he saw again the following moment in pursuit of him.

Seeking a cavern which was not to be found, his strength exhausted, his courage extinguished, he stopped in spite of himself. The soldiers, yet more

fatigued, stopped also : all were equally in want of rest. The Spaniards only wished to keep in sight one whom they believed could never escape them. Theodore found himself at the foot of the mountain Cayambier, which, rearing its head to a frightful height, appeared to be inaccessible. If he returned, and refused to surrender, it would be easy to surround and kill him : his enemies, having no motive for continuing their march, halted as long as Theodore remained stationary.

Their conduct appeared inexplicable ; but, without vainly endeavouring to penetrate it, he profited by the relaxation their inaction afforded, and, recovering his recollection, eat some berries he found near him, which recruited, in some degree, his exhausted strength. Feeling yet the value of life, he deter-

ained to exert himself for its preservation ; and, rising up again, set forwards. The Spaniards also resumed their pursuit, but advanced more slowly than before. Theodore ran along the smooth rocks, and left his pursuers far behind him. He thought he might now venture to stop again, examine the objects around him, and consider what direction he should take. At a little distance was that prodigious mountain, which presented nothing to his view but a wall of rock, the immensity of which stopped him on every side. Again he discovered the Spaniards, marching at about twenty paces from each other, and forming a dreadful line, which rendered his retreat impossible. He seemed lost without resource. But as present danger is what we are always most anxious,

to avoid, he continued his course towards the mountain.

As he drew nearer, inequalities in the rocks were visible. Soon he discerned some fractures on which he might rest; and, seeing crevices, through which lychnuses and other creeping plants had grown, trusted to his agility and good fortune, and attempted to climb the mountain. Fixing himself, he grappled with the rocks; adhered closely to them; and, seizing a lychnus, ascended as by a rope: a second plant succeeded the first, and he continued to ascend. His efforts were incredible; the perspiration trickled from every pore: but he had now only to contend with the difficulties of the mountain; and, as it was absolutely perpendicular, what could equal the surprize of the Spaniards,

when, arriving, they beheld him beyond the reach of their musquets.

But youth undertakes without reflection, and acts without foreseeing the consequences of its conduct: its imagination is unlimited, and the means of effecting its purposes but few. Theodore could no longer support the fatigue, to which he had condemned himself; his hand and knees were covered with blood; his nerves had lost their elasticity, and his body its suppleness. Seized with despair, he sighed, and was about to quit his hold of the lychnus which supported him, and drop into the abyss below: when, in turning his eyes towards heaven, before he closed them for ever, he was struck with the appearance of a cavity, which he observed a few fathoms above him. But how could he attain this desirable spot? a little rest,

and he might hope to arrive at it. The dread of annihilation renders man ingenious. Theodore, taking with one hand the lychnus, which he could scarcely hold, twisted it with the other several times round his body, and tied it with a strong knot close to the root; this remaining suspended, he gently rested upon his feet. What a repose!

Reflecting on the dreadful future which awaited him, he regretted the pleasures of Lima. Suppose he could reach this cavern, the only object of his wishes, what could he do? how could he procure the smallest sustenance? On every side nothing was visible but a naked and burning rock, interspersed with hard and fibrous shrubs. But who is so unhappy, as not to wish a few hours prolongation of his miserable existence? Cursing that glory, whose brilliant illu-

sions had deceived him, and reflecting most bitterly upon his own imprudence ; he untied the lychnus, to which he had owed the inestimable blessing of breathing for a moment : then, looking upwards with an anxious eye, and invoking the cavern which seemed destined to be his tomb, recommenced his climbing.

As he ascended, the objects changed their appearance : what he took for a cavity, was nothing but a shadow, produced by the jutting angle of a rock ; but he observed that, at this place, the mountain retired thirty or forty paces from its base, and he did not doubt but he should there find the ground even to a tolerable extent. “ Perhaps he might find a bed of earth ;—perhaps it might be fertile ; Oh ! if a stream of water should flow there !” His heart

expanded ; a smile returned to his lips ; hope filled his bosom ; the balm of consolation flowed through his veins, and restored to him his former activity. He arrived at this spot so ardently desired. His hands touched the summit of the frightful wall, on whose side he had been so long suspended between life and death. He took hold of a strong shrub, which was near him ; laid himself at his length ; contracted his body ; and then, throwing himself forward, found himself upon a vast platform, crowned with verdure. Here he fell on his knees ; and returning thanks to the Father of mercies, fainted away.

Recovering, he hastily surveyed the objects around him. A space, about a quarter of a mile in extent, was completely covered with shrubs, and a variety of plants unknown in the plain.

Wild but pleasant fruits on every side presented themselves to the famished Theodore: he found them refreshing and delicious. After appeasing his hunger, he examined more minutely a place, where probably no person had ever before penetrated: for a long time he sought for a stream of water, so necessary for the support of his life, but sought it in vain; till overwhelmed with despair, he threw himself upon the grass.

A sensation of inexpressible joy had affected him on escaping from present and certain danger; now his heart was wrung with anguish at the idea of the slow and lingering death which awaited him. "Fruit," repeated he, "fruit, and not a drop of water!" He looked wistfully on the second mountain, which eternally bounded his little wilderness: the cedar was not more strait; ice was

not more smooth : the inhabitants of the air alone were privileged to attain its summit. Theodore's head fell upon his breast ; " Here then," said he, " must I die ;" and the tears flowed plentifully down his face.

O tears ! the last resource that nature has afforded the unfortunate ; how do ye lessen the bitterness, and almost drown the remembrance of misery ! Relieved by weeping, he was again enabled to think and act. A sharp flint, or a pointed branch, would enable him to dig holes that might receive the rain water ; but the ground would absorb every drop in an instant : he, therefore, renounced the idea of procuring it by such means. Time, he thought, had probably formed a basin at the top of the rock he had just ascended ; therefore, returning to the edge of the precipice,

he traced it through its windings, pulled up the tufts of grass, and removed the branches which seemed to conceal any cavity. On a sudden, a ray of light started into his mind. Reflecting that, as he had ascended, it was possible for him to descend and that it was the sole resource, he determined to encounter the difficulties, and defer the execution of his plan only till the Spaniards had disappeared. One reasonable thought naturally prepared the way for another. He thought he might easily make a long thick rope of flexible branches, the end of which might be fastened to one of the strongest trees; and by thrusting pieces of stick through it at proper distances, it might be made to resemble a ladder. It being necessary to calculate a little the height he had attained, in order to consider the time this would

take, he laid himself on the edge of the rock ; and, advancing his head forward, observed the distance from the ground to be such that he might finish a cord sufficiently long in about two days ; and it would be easy to pass two days without water, amidst such an abundance of fruit. All his projects at this moment seemed feasible ; but soon an observation disturbed him. But four Spaniards were to be seen at the foot of the mountain ; what could have become of the others ? they could not possibly be far off ; yet he was not able to distinguish them, though his view comprehended an immense space. Could they have found a path, which led to the place where he was ? Inquietude was quickly changed into fear ; and, getting up, he ran to a spot where a prominent rock concealed some objects from his view. O uninter-

rupted series of misfortunes ! at a considerable distance from the platform, he counted ten Spaniards, with their muskets shouldered, ascending by a path, difficult indeed, but easy, compared with that which had cost him so much trouble.

The Viceroy of Peru rewarded with a considerable sum the soldiers, who stopped any one endeavouring to penetrate the mines. The desire of this reward stimulated these men ; while Theodore saw nothing in their indefatigable perseverance, but the most determined fury.

No person in his situation could doubt but that their intention was to murder him ; and how, without arms and enfeebled by his violent exertions, and the agitation he had endured, was it possible to oppose them ? His recollection

entirely forsook him : involuntarily he retarded the fatal blow, by darting among the shrubs, and concealing himself under the bushes. Hope is the last passion that is extinguished in our bosoms, and Theodore flattered himself he should not be discovered.

An hour passed away in this tormenting suspense, during which he remained motionless scarcely venturing to breathe. The leaves agitated by the wind ; the little birds perched on the neighbouring branches ; all added to his terrors, which were soon raised to their utmost pitch. Persons were walking at a little distance ; he listened with still greater attention, and heard voices within a few paces.

Excess of fear deprived him of all power of reflection ; and, retiring upon his hands and knees, till he came to the foot of the mountain, he forgot that the noise which he made by disturbing and

breaking the branches, must infallibly betray him. The Spaniards, perceiving him, sent forth a shout of joy, and ran towards their wretched victim.—The blood froze in Theodore's veins; a death like moisture bedewed his limbs. He leaned against the rock, which he expected would have stopped his course, but whose side appeared to open to save him from his enemies. The sun, he thought, must have withdrawn its light to prevent his being pursued; and, to complete the illusion, he fancied himself walking in a long, narrow, and dark, subterraneous passage. A violent blow on his head, convinced him that all was reality. He stretched out his hands, and found a rocky and irregular vault. He crawled upon his hands and knees, got up, and crawled again; then stretched himself forward; and, like a reptile gliding between the sharp rocks, which

grazed him on each side, he advanced as fast as his weariness and the obscurity would allow him : frequently stopping to listen, but, hearing nothing, he took courage.

The Spaniards in fact had remained at the entrance of the cavern ; into which nothing but the love of life could induce a mortal to enter. The damp, rough, and unwholesome bottom ; the fear of noxious insects peculiar to the country ; the wild beasts which the cavern might serve for a retreat ; the thick darkness ; all conspired to deter every other from entering. They believed also that the narrow limits of the cave, hunger, or the hope of mercy, would induce the criminal to return, and, therefore, waited patiently for Theodore ; refreshing themselves, as he had done, with the wild fruits the place afforded.

What we most wish, we readily believe. Theodore doubted not but the cavern extended from one side to the other of the mountain. He could perceive, however, that he was sensibly ascending, and that the path he followed was winding: he concluded that his walk would be long and weary; but he was leaving the Spaniards far behind, and there was nothing he so much dreaded as falling again into their hands.

Already was the day far advanced; he darted forwards, still ascending, not seeing or daring to hope for an outlet, and despairing of ever again beholding the sun. Death, under whatever shape it presents itself, is always terrible; and he repented of adding to its horrors, by flying from the Spaniards. It was possible his youth and misfortunes might have interested them; or,

if their cruelty was not to be subdued, they would at least have terminated his afflictions by a single blow ; and now, how many hours might he have to linger ? He was half inclined to turn back, but had he sufficient strength to drag himself so far as the entrance of the cavern ? As he was thus bewildering himself with a crowd of contradictory ideas, he thought he saw a ray of light at the extremity of the passage. He started and darted forwards, but the light vanished. Heaven and earth, himself, all were accused of having conspired to deceive him ; he passed from despair to madness, and, running forwards like one distracted, dashed himself against an angle of the rock ; the blow threw him on his side. Oh ! unlooked for happiness ! the light had not deceived him, but appeared more brilliant than before, reflected by the

edges of the rocks : Theodore then discovered that the rock against which he had ran had concealed the light for an instant. Soon he was able to see distinctly ; and, advancing a few paces, found himself in the open air.

Imagine to yourself an unfortunate wretch, overcome with fatigue and anguish, escaping for a second or third time from the jaws of death ; and you will be able to form some notion of the transports Theodore experienced. His ideas were all absorbed in the contemplation of the cheerful light of heaven ; he neither thought of the country he was entering, the means of subsistence, nor of the dangers he might encounter from the inhabitants.

This delirium, however, gradually subsided ; and that dreadful foresight, so improperly styled reason, resuming

its irresistible empire, a confused mixture of hope and fear again tormented his bosom. Leaving the cavern, and advancing a few paces, he beheld a magnificent plain; embellished by cultivated fields, smiling habitations, trees laden with fruit, meandering streams, increasing as they flowed, and fertilizing the whole, forming a complete picture of plenty.

The manner of cultivation and the buildings, differing from any thing he had seen at Lima or its environs, convinced him it was not the abode of Spaniards, and that he had no longer enemies to dread. Every thing announced a civilized people, on whom he might depend for relief: and his heart experienced an interval of tranquility. He quenched his thirst, and gathered and eat some fruits as he advanced into the

country ; but scarcely had he proceeded a hundred paces, when he perceived five or six men sitting under a plane tree. They were clothed in a sort of white tunic, fastened round the waist by a girdle of various colours ; a bandeau, ornamented with high and beautiful feathers, adorned their foreheads ; their features appeared agreeable, and their countenance mild ; no doubt remained of their being friends, who would give him a gracious reception.

In approaching them, he observed bows, quivers, and clubs, thrown here and there on the grass ; but the sight of these weapons did not alarm his confidence of security, and he drew near without distrust. As soon, however, as the men discovered him, they started up ; and, raising a shout, drew their bows. Theodore displayed a white

handkerchief ; but they continued in the attitude of attack. Already were they searching their quivers for the best pointed arrow, and he was again obliged to fly from death, which, in a new form, was incessantly pursuing him. At a little distance was an ancient and thickly planted grove, towards which he ran for shelter ; the arrows flew hissing around, without wounding him ; and he redoubled his speed to avoid his new enemies, who were close at his heels.

Scarcely had he a hope of escaping from men, swift as the wind, and not fatigued, as he was ; but, recollecting that the trees would shelter him from their clubs, until he had by signs made them understand his distress, and that he threw himself upon their mercy, he made an extraordinary effort, and

arrived under the tutelary shade; where no one dared attack him.

Every thing in this eventful day seemed calculated to excite his astonishment. His pursuers, stopping at the edge of the wood, and bowing with profound reverence, convinced Theodore that the place was consecrated to religious purposes, and considered as a sacred and inviolable asylum. Taking courage, he darted into the thickest and most gloomy part of the wood, and was confirmed in his opinion by the appearance of tombs, more or less ancient, whose doors were of cedar, supported by hinges of gold.

On turning one of these tombs, he was surprized by a sight as striking as it was unexpected! Pillars of massy gold supported an open cupola; under which was an altar from whence issued

a bluish flame. On each side was a flight of circular steps, covered with cloth of different colours. Within the building was an image of the Sun in plates of gold, the rays of which, skillfully ornamented with silver, extended from the top of the cupola to the floor. The walls on the right and left were decorated with bas-reliefs in gold, representing the crimes of Pizarro and his associates. Near one of them was a statue of the same metal, clumsily formed ; in which Theodore recognized the ecclesiastical Spanish habit of the fifteenth century. "Ah!" said he, "doubtless this must be the image of the virtuous Las-Casas, whom this grateful people adore : true it is, then, that the memory of a good man never dies ; but, borne on the wings of time, passes to the latest posterity."

Whilst he stood gazing with admiration, a new object suddenly attracted his attention, and banished from his thoughts the temple, his danger, himself, the universe. A priestess, in the act of adoration, was kneeling before the altar. Her dress, which consisted of a long robe white as snow, displayed the graces of her person : a veil of the same colour floated upon her shoulders ; and, gently agitated by the air, played in undulating folds upon the cushion. The dazzling whiteness of the robe and veil, were relieved by borders of gold and silver ingeniously mixed ; and a chaplet of natural flowers united the simplicity of nature to the most exquisite refinements of art.

The elegant figure of the priestess announced her to be young, and prepared him to expect the most attractive beauty. Youth generally possesses sen-

sibility and delight in the slightest opportunities of benevolence. Theodore approached with tremulous apprehension. Without relying upon the graces of his person, he could not suppress the idea of their impression ; and he trusted that the vows, which probably had forbidden her to love, had not proscribed the exercise of compassion. Azili, hearing a step, turned ; and, raising her veil, discovered a face, whose bloom might vie with the roses of Aurora. The European habit at first inspired her with fear, but Theodore had assumed the attitude of a suppliant ; neither his looks nor his posture indicated hostile intentions. Recovering herself, she smiled upon him with the unsuspecting simplicity of innocence. Theodore, enchanted, was incapable of uttering a word ; his soul beamed in his eyes ; his blood

rushed in rapid streams to his heart ; and love, for the first time, took possession of his bosom. The priestess, on her part, unconscious of danger, and fearing no reproach, yielded to the emotions that agitated her breast. These interesting beings stopped within a few paces, and regarded each other with fixed attention. Azili, least affected, first broke silence ; "Fair stranger," said she, "what would you ?" Her voice, soft, flexible, and harmonious, completed the enchantment ; and the transported Theodore knew not what to answer. The ingenuous priestess repeated her question. She spoke in the Peruvian language, which was familiar to Theodore, who had seen Peruvian slaves at Lima, and had frequently conversed with Corambe. This language, abounding in vowels, is of easy pronunciation.

People, whose employment is husbandry, make use of but few words ; and Theodore had learned enough to be able to express himself with tolerable ease. He began the recital of his misfortunes ; and his voice made the same impression upon Azili that her's had made on him. She listened with the most lively interest ; sighed when he recounted his dangers, and smiled at the renewal of his hope. Hope, rash maid ! soon will it be a stranger to your bosom.

She knew not what to do for Theodore, but was willing to undertake every thing. She had every reason to detest Europeans ; but certainly those who massacred her ancestors could not resemble this interesting youth. It was a law that no profane person should enter the temple ; but the stranger was ignorant of their customs ; he was wretched ;

and the God whom she worshipped would permit her to protect him. The Peruvians had attempted his life ; and it was her duty to prevent their committing such a crime. But where could she conceal him ? She might not pass the precincts of the temple ; and was she sure that her companions and the priestesses would be as compassionate as herself ? Were they to give him up, his blood would be shed as an atonement for the blood shed by the Spaniards. Shuddering with horror at the thought, she took Theodore by the hand ; and, conducting him into the midst of the cemetery, “ This,” said she, “ is the tomb of the great Capana, who was a father to us all, and the founder of this happy colony. If he had met with you, he would have acted as I have done ; for he was always the support of the

wretched and the good. May his tomb serve for the present as your asylum ; and for the future, may my God inspire me !” Then, opening the door of the monument, Théodore, penetrated with gratitude, and already intoxicated with love, entered it, imprecating blessings on her ; whilst the young priestess, carefully closing it after her, returned to the altar.

There it was, that, alone, she examined her conscience, and interrogated herself severely. A man had presented himself before her ; she had allowed herself to look at him—a man proscribed by the laws of her country, to whom and to all Europeans she had sworn an eternal hatred. She could not but acknowledge she had violated her vows, and yet experienced no remorse. What ought she to do ? Should she continue to see

Theodore, to speak to him, and to relieve his wants? Her delicacy was alarmed; her religious scruples were awakened. But then to betray a young man, who had confided to her his life. Betray him! it would be ungenerous, perfidious, a cruelty unheard of. But her vows—her vows! She then prostrated herself before the image of her God; beseeching him to enlighten her inexperience, and to guide her youth. Again she examined her heart, and found there nothing but the serenity that accompanies a virtuous action. “The will of heaven is manifest,” said she; “I shall endanger my own safety, no doubt, but the wretched man shall live.”

At the decline of day, one of her companions came to relieve her, and to watch the sacred fire. Azili returned to the interior of the building, which

was inhabited by the priestesses. Recollecting that Theodore must experience hunger, when the provisions were distributed, she reserved her share for him ; and favoured by the darkness, went out without being perceived. Pursuing with trembling the windings of the sacred grove, she soon reached the tomb of Capana. Gently opening the door, and leaning forward, she called in a low voice to Theodore, who, instantly ascending the steps received at her hands a vessel of milk and a cake of maize, a relief which she imagined his distress alone had extorted.

The door of the tomb being again closed, Azili returned to her apartment, till now the abode of peace ; but from which her regard for Theodore had banished peace for ever. Sleep, invoked in vain, withheld its balmy influence ;

the image of Theodore incessantly presented itself to her mind ; whilst he, at the bottom of the tomb, could see, think, nor dream, of any thing but Azili.

It is necessary now to relate, by what means a Peruvian nation could be concealed in the bosom of a mountain, surrounded by Spanish possessions. On that horrible day, a day which Spain must wish to be effaced from the annals of history, when Pizarro received Atabalipa, who came to him as an ally, Capana was one of the grandees, who composed the train of the emperor of Peru. Atabalipa was borne upon a throne of gold. The arms of his soldiers were covered with the same metal : a sight, which served only to inflame the avarice of the ferocious Spaniards.

This unfortunate monarch spoke the language of peace ; Pizarro answered

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him by a discharge of cannon. It is easy to conceive the effect produced upon the Peruvians, by the sight of horses, which trod them under foot, and the noise of the artillery, resembling thunder, and killing with greater certainty. These unhappy people, by their precipitate flight, increased the confusion, and rendered the carnage more dreadful. A number of princes of the race of the Incas, the chief nobility, and all the court of Atahualpa were slain; neither age nor sex were spared. Thousands, who had come from all parts to see the emperor, whom Pizarro had taken prisoner, and who was condemned to die by his iniquitous judges, perished with their prince.

Capana miraculously escaped this horrible butchery. A man of sound judgment, he foresaw that the arms of

the Spaniards would render them every where victorious, and dreaded, from their present cruelty, the total overthrow of his country. Instead of burying himself under its ruins, he determined to preserve his life for the sake of a beloved wife, an infant family, whose only hope he was, and his unhappy countrymen. Hastening to his palace, tortured by despair and grief, he related the scene of horrors he had just witnessed; and, leaving his gold, with those effects most sought after by his enemies, he secured his true riches by concealing his family in the mountains.

Every day they were joined by some unfortunate fugitives, who were gladly received; and he soon found himself at the head of a numerous people, and was unanimously appointed their chief. As their number was augmented, the

difficulty of concealing them increased. The Spaniards had not yet indeed spread themselves so far as the mountains, where the mines most abounded ; but contented themselves with the pillage of palaces and houses, which afforded them gold without trouble. This resource must soon be exhausted ; and it was to be expected their avarice would urge them to further researches. Capana and his followers had nothing therefore before them but slavery or death ; unless they could find a secret and inaccessible retreat, where a good man might live and die without molestation.

The excellent and indefatigable Capana traversed the Cordeliers by day ; and, in vain, sought a place sufficiently secure from Spanish avidity. Disconsolate and perplexed, he returned in the evening to console his unhappy family ;

and to forget, in their endearments, his disappointments and fatigues. It became necessary, at length, to withdraw farther into the country ; and their difficulties were increased, by their not finding the soil always sufficiently productive. As he was one day upon a walk of discovery, he was perceived by a body of Spaniards, whom Pizarro had sent in search of the mines. It was not to be supposed the appearance of one man could give them any disturbance ; but, whether their guides had induced them to change their route, without any determinate object, or whether they took Capana for an inhabitant of the mountains, from whom they hoped to obtain the information, of which they were in pursuit, they made directly towards him.

The Indian prince, more justly alarm-

ed than Theodore, fled as he had done ; and his good fortune, which led him towards Cayambur, conducted him to the very spot, where, with courage and perseverance, he might climb the mountain without danger. It was to the massy projections of rock, which had concealed this important spot from Theodore, that Capana owed his safety. Here the Spaniards lost sight of him ; and, whatever had been their design, he beheld them from the platform, returning by the same path, and resuming their former route.

Always full of his project, he carefully examined the place, to which his danger had driven him. The entrance of the cavern was not then concealed by brambles ; and he easily discerned it through the shrubs. It appeared narrow, but deep ; and he was satisfied it

might favour his design. By day it would conceal his Peruvians ; by night, he might send out parties to gather fruits, catch the wild lamas, and draw water. Pieces of rock might be broken from the second mountain to throw upon the Spaniards, should they discover their retreat, and venture to attack them. Thus they might patiently expect the time, perhaps not far distant, when their enemies, disputing for the spoils of the Peruvians, would fall upon each other ; and, by their mutual slaughter, leave the country to be again cultivated by its original inhabitants.

Having determined upon this plan, he deferred its execution only, till he could examine the extent of the cavern, and find means of rendering it habitable. Returning to his friends, he informed them of his discovery ; and soon re-

paired thither with some of the bravest of his followers, carrying provisions and flambeaux made of dried festitious wood. Upon examining the cavern, they found they had much to effect, before it would be fit for their reception. Impatient, however, to discover the end of this subterraneous recess, they continued advancing till they penetrated as far as this vast plain; where the earth only waited for a little culture, in order to pour forth its richest treasures. They hailed this land of security; where, uninterrupted, they might follow their own laws, and enjoy the free exercise of their religion; and, congratulating each other on the safety they might promise themselves from the difficulties of the passage, they hastened to their companions to make them partakers of their joy.

At the dawn of the following day, the colony began its journey to that asylum, which was to separate them from the whole world. No more sighs! no more tears! The husband gaily supported his smiling companion, and the tender mother caressed with rapture the infant she was going to nourish in peace, and to rear far from the haunts of their persecutors. All were laden with clothing, household furniture, mechanical tools, or instruments of husbandry, saved from the general wreck. Yet they felt not the weight of their burdens; for their journey was a festival.

The whole day was consumed in ascending the mountain. The children and old men stood in need of assistance, which every one was anxious to render. Here a son, in the vigour of youth was

attending his aged father; carrying him from rock to rock, and exposing himself to danger for his parents preservation. There, a daughter was exerting herself to assist her infirm mother. The affectionate wife, carrying in her arms the youngest pledge of her love, was surrounded by her elder children, who, watching her steps, endeavoured to clear the road before her. The lover assisted his mistress, and the friend his friend. Not a Spaniard appeared to alarm or molest them in this long and painful undertaking; and heaven, whose awful sanction had been basely assumed for the extirmination of this once innumerable people, seemed to take this little remnant under its peculiar protection.

When the last of them had attained the platform, all turned towards Quito.

That ancient city had been burned or destroyed; the fertile plain, on which it stood, was uncultivated and forsaken, for the Spaniards sought nothing but gold. At sight of this picture of desolation, they burst into tears. "Cease," said Capana, "Cease to regret that, of which your God deprives you, and bless him for what he bestows. You are astonished, that the land does not continue productive; and what should it produce, sullied by crimes and deluged by our blood? The earth calls for the hands of innocence; it is the sweat of the brow, it is water which it demands; come, then, and cultivate this."

Immediately they rushed towards the entrance of the cavern, and, with the day, arrived at their new country. The upper entrance they stopped up.

with stones and trunks of trees ; and thus, separate from the rest of mankind, commenced their labour with order, intelligence, and courage. A great portion of the earth was covered with gold, which they removed ; and, in its place, planted the potatoe and other useful vegetables. Soon, the cotton-tree, the cocoa and bananas, strait and tall, and laden with delicious fruit, spread their protecting shades. Regular habitations next succeeded ; and their heaps of gold were converted into a magnificent temple. Why has not this metal been always so innocently employed ?

The reign of Capana was mild and peaceable as the people he governed. He lived adored, and died lamented ; and his revered ashes were deposited in the sacred grove, which his own

hends had planted. His successors, inspired with respect for his memory, observed his most minute institutions ; and under them, as under Capana, the children imbibed, with their first milk, an hatred of Europeans, and attachment to their own laws.

But how did Theodore, with so much difficulty, find the entrance of this passage ? and how happened it, that he met with no obstacle through its whole extent ?

Capana's prophecy had been fulfilled. Pizarro and his lieutenants, with others equally ambitious, commenced a bloody war ; and the thunder of their artillery resounded through the recesses of Cayambur. The Peruvians doubted not but the moment was arriving, when they might return to their beloved country : with great difficulty,

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therefore, they opened the mouth of the cavern, and assembled to appoint a deputy, who should go and learn what was passing in the plain. Capana, tho' far advanced in years, not daring to entrust another with so important a commission, determined to go himself to Quito. Neither the tears nor entreaties of his children and subjects could deter him from his design. He laid aside the ensigns of royalty, assumed a simple habit, and departed. A few days after, he returned, dejected, fatigued, and scarcely able to support himself. The people surrounded and oppressed him with interrogations. He related, that their enemies, having fought many bloody battles, at length became so weak, that the dispersed Peruvians again assembled, and ventured to attack them; that 600 Spaniards were

slain, Lima and Cusco were besieged, and every thing seemed to announce the re-establishment of the ancient empire of Peru ; when the arrival of considerable reinforcements from Europe destroyed these flattering expectations. The massacre of the Peruvians afterwards recommenced with new fury ; till, weary with slaughter, the Spaniards had condemned to the mines the miserable victims that remained. However, as the measures, which had, for the present, been defeated, might succeed in other circumstances ; the inhabitants of Cayambur came to a resolution of sending, every year, a deputy to Quito, who might learn the situation of affairs, The opening of the cavern had been effected, with a difficulty that they were not willing often to encounter : they determined, therefore, that it

should remain uncovered ; but that they would conceal the entrance by a plantation of briars and thorns, and that a perpetual guard should be established, which, as the place allowed but one to pass at a time, might easily dispatch any Spaniards who should present themselves.

This guard, for a long time strictly kept up, was, by degrees, relaxed. After two centuries of tranquil prosperity, they desired no other country, and omitted sending their deputy to Quito. They continued the guard, however, because it had been established by Capana, but the service was negligently performed ; and to this was Theodore indebted for the facility with which he entered the valley.

Villuma, who reigned at that time in Cayambur, united, as his predecessors

had done, the regal office and the priesthood. He was about 40 years of age, of good natural talents, unperturbed by the prejudices of education ; possessed also of great dignity and energy of character. He added to these important qualities, that amiable disposition, which is so essential to the support of arbitrary power. Truly good himself, his authority was exerted only for the good of the community. There were but two faults, with which it was possible to reproach him ; the one was, that he believed, like his ancestors, all Europeans monsters ; the other, that he equally feared and detested them.

All was ready for the celebration of the anniversary of the day, on which Capana had founded this happy colony. The temple was strewn with flowers ; incense, cedar, and aloes were burning

on the altar ; the priestesses and virgins were arranged round the sanctuary ; the people pressed into the courts, which, during these solemnities, were open to them ; Villuma was beginning to chant the sacred hymn, when the high-priestess Anais, forcing her way through the crowd, informed him an European had been seen in Cayambur, and had not yet been found.

The Peruvians, who had perceived Theodore enter, and had suffered him to escape, secretly reproached themselves for their negligence ; and, dreading, not the severity, but the justice of Villuma, dared not to divulge an event as extraordinary as it was alarming. However, as other Europeans might follow this, the public safety, and their own personal security, being at least endangered, they communicated the secret to their friends who whispered the

terrible report that Cayambur was menaced.

Considering the prejudices in which Villmuma had been educated, he must naturally be alarmed by the information of Anais. He trembled at the incalculable evils which one or two Europeans might bring upon a people, long accustomed to yield without opposition : looking attentively at the crowd, he observed their countenances unchanged. " They appear," said he to Anais, " ignorant of the circumstance : it will be soon enough to inform them when your fears are verified ; at present, let us respect their repose." He detached some Incas, which orders to seek and stop the European ; and to double the guard at the entrance of the cavern.

Always master of himself, he gave the signal. The flutes and trumpets

opened the festival ; and Villuma, with apparent tranquillity, began the solemn hymn.

HYMN.

O source exhaustless of the streams
Of fire, that warm the earth and skies,
Accept the vows, pure as thy beams,
That from our grateful hearts arise.

VIRGINS.

Commencing glad thy glorious course,
Widely thou fling'st thy flaming rays ;
Night's paler orb yields to thy force,
And fades extinguish'd in thy blaze.

PRIESTS.

Absent, thy loss the suffering earth
And Nature's fainting children mourn ;
To thee they owe their life, their birth,
And joyful hail thy wish'd return.

The people repeated every stanza in full chorus ; and Villuma and Anais

descended the steps to the sound of slow music. They were followed by the virgins veiled; amongst whom were two, just above the infantile age, Elina and Meloe, who had lately been dedicated to the altar, unconscious of the nature of their obligations. The one carried a golden vessel full of milk; the other a basket laden with fruit. Next to these walked the priests; and the procession, closed by the Incas and the people, descended to the tomb of Capana.

Azili, fearful and trembling in the midst of her companions, imagined the eyes of every one penetrated the sepulchre, and discovered Theodore. Her own were immoveably fixed on the monument, formerly an insensible heap of stones now animated by the presence of a being too dear to her, Willingly

would she have prevented their approach, and scarcely could she restrain her emotion when they touched it. Her veil happily concealed her anxiety and her blushes.

The sight of Azili had given life a new charm in the imagination of Theodore; and the gloomy sepulchre was converted, by the hope of again beholding her, into a delightful abode. But what mean these hymns and solemn sounds? Where they coming to tear him from his happy asylum? Or were they about to sacrifice to the Peruvian deities; and would Azili, his beloved Azili! be lost in her attempt to save him? Unfortunate youth! destined to experience in its turn every pang a mortal can endure.

Elina and Meloe, having placed upon the tomb the milk and fruits, a tribute

of public gratitude and reverence to the manes of Capana, retired in silence, and relieved the anxiety of Azili and Theodore.

The information of Anais made a deep impression upon the penetrating mind of Villuma ; and he determined to seize the opportunity, now the people were assembled, to prejudice them against the European, to rouse them to resist him if he intended violence ; or, dreading most their influence, to warn them against his seducing and engaging manners. Returning to the temple, and pointing with his hand to the bas-reliefs with which it was adorned ; “ Behold,” exclaimed he, “ behold, represented on the walls of this sacred edifice, the crimes which we almost believe, but which to our posterity will appear utterly incredible. There, mil-

lions of our fellow creatures are sacrificed to an insatiable thirst for gold ; here, millions, doomed to continual darkness, languish in the bowels of the earth, and are painfully employed in digging its entrails. There again, mothers, weeping over their expiring infants, mix their last sighs with those of their children. Here, the detestable Valverde, the poignard in his hand, and planting the cross on heaps of carcases, proclaims his God. Behold there the wretches who outraged human nature, who tore the children from their parents' breasts, rent their limbs in pieces, and cast them to their dogs. Impious race ! race ever to be detested, I curse you in the name of innumerable victims ! Swear with me, Peruvians, swear never to show mercy to any one of them, whom chance shall put into

your power." The people repeated the the path. Theodore, at the bottom of the tomb, turned pale ; and Azili, fainting and unable to support herself, was led away by one of the virgins.

"Those who know how to detest wickedness," continued Villuma, "love also to honour virtue. Contemplate the statue of the venerable friend of Mexico and Peru; contemplate the excellent Las Casas, of whom an unskilful hand has left us an imperfect resemblance. Let us at least be grateful for the good he endeavoured to perform." Saying this, he placed a crown of flowers on the head of the virtuous Spaniard.

The festival being concluded, the people, the virgins, and the priests, returned to their respective habitations ; whilst Villuma retired to his palace, where he was expected by the Incas

whom he had dispatched in pursuit of the European. They reported with regret, that but a part of his orders had been executed. A select and numerous guard had been placed at the entrance of the cavern ; and the profound silence that reigned within convinced them the stranger must be alone : but, notwithstanding the strictness of their search, he had not yet been discovered. All they could learn was, that he had taken refuge in the sacred grove, whither no one dared to pursue him, and had not since been seen.

Villuma, convinced that he had found an asylum amongst the priests or the virgins, was not so much shocked at this violation of their vows and contempt of the laws, as angry and grieved at their forgetfulness of the happiness and safety of their country. Long ac-

customed to habits of reflection, he soared above the superstition of his countrymen ; and, behind the sparkling luminary which they adored, discovered the creating hand that fed and supported its light. In secret he worshipped that invisible God whose existence he felt, but whose nature he was unable to explain. If he maintained the religious errors of his people, it was because of the useful influence it gave him over their minds. If he affected an enthusiasm he did not feel, it was on account of its power over the vulgar : it was an ardour, which he well knew was easily communicated ; that to it they owed their courage and very frequently their virtues. This contempt of a most sacred duty, especially in the ministers of religion, inspired a fear of the novel opinions it must embrace.

Though he possessed neither experience or learning, he immediately perceived that a spirit of innovation would be the parent of endless disorder: he therefore commanded the search to be renewed in the temple, the dwellings of the priests, and in his own palace, charging Anais rigorously to examine the abode of the virgins.

After a little reflection, and revolving in his mind every possible circumstance, Villuma was satisfied that a single European, however terrible he might be, could not think of employing force. "Avarice, which probably directed this man," said he to the Incas, "will teach him to multiply his resources. This emissary of your enemies, you say, concealed his criminal intentions under the graces of youth; it is by those means, no doubt, he designs to in-

terest you, and will by those accelerate your ruin.

“If you allow him to remain amongst you, he will speak the language of virtue, he will assume the tone of affection ; truth will sit upon his lips, while perfidy is concealed in his heart. He will employ all the arts of persuasion ; will abuse your experience ; will wean you by degrees from your antient manners and habits, will extinguish your hatred of your murderers, incline you towards them, and at length open to them the entrance of the valley.

“Send him back to his countrymen, he will awaken their insatiable avarice. Men, whom nothing can resist, will force the barriers by which nature has defended us ; will bring with them fire and sword, and, like a destructive torrent, spread every where death and

desolation. Methinks I see this temple overturned, your harvests destroyed, your wives and children running from your burning houses, appealing to you with loud shrieks, straining you in their last embrace, and falling under the exterminating sword at your feet! You arise, you clasp their breathless bodies; a tear escapes your eyes; that tear becomes a crime, and your blood is mixed with that of the victims, whom you lament! Your God, indignant, withdraws his light; the following morn he looks for his children, and their race is no more. He shines only on their dead bodies, the robbers, and the gold. Let this European then be found, and let him die."—"Let him die," repeated the Incas, animated by his prophetic oration; and, spreading themselves amongst the people, every where they

inspired the holy rage with which they were agitated.

But how was Azili affected when she heard these cries of proscription, and saw the priests and her companions running here and there in search of their devoted victim. In the midst of the tumult and disorder that reigned in the temple, she escaped unobserved, and ran to the sacred grove. Fearful and dismayed, she looked towards the tombs: no one had approached them; not a soul was near. Perhaps, distracted by the alarm, they had escaped their attention; or perhaps they imagined it was not possible for any one to profane the retreats of the dead, and insult their sacred ashes.

She was irresistibly led towards the tomb of Capana. Irresolute and unable to decide, yet, under the necessity of

coming to some determination, nothing satisfactory presented itself to her mind. Every thing conspired to prevent her keeping Theodore under her protection : he must then pass his life immured within a gloomy tomb. But, should he go, what would be left that could interest her ? She could no longer conceal from herself that he was of importance to her happiness. No matter ; he was not, on that account, to be deprived of all that is valuable in life, and remain in constant alarm. It was better he should go, and she must inform him so ; but how venture to open the tomb by day and speak to the stranger ?

The most artless woman cannot be ignorant of the sentiments she inspires. Azili foresaw she should have tears and intreaties to resist, and perhaps

meat with an obstinate refusal. A young man of twenty is not easily persuaded to leave the object of his affections : the interview would unavoidably be long ; but, should she defer it till night, Theodore, emboldened by the darkness, would resist still longer, and lose in fruitless opposition the moment favourable to his flight. She determined therefore instantly to speak to Theodore ; and, imagining she followed the dictates of nature, yielded to the wishes of her heart!

Turning towards the altar, Elina, she observed, watched the sacred fire ; and Metoe, her friend, was with her engaged in earnest conversation. Assured that they could not leave their charge, and knowing that the tomb of Capana could not for the trees be seen from the sanc-

tuary, Azili persuaded herself she had nothing to fear. Fatal security !

She opened the door, and Theodore sprang up the steps. He seized her hand and pressed it to his lips. Azili forgot in his society the dangers to which they were exposed. Seated on a stone near the tomb, she was relating the perils that surrounded him, and imploring him to leave Cayambur. He had neither the power nor inclination to obey her. "Your life," says she, "is proscribed."—"To lose you," replied he, "would be worse than death"—"Ah ! if you should be discovered"—"Well, let us live for each other ; there is a way."—"For mercy's sake, name it not."—"What ! your God." "Blaspheme him not. He is the God of my father."—"What ! vows at which nature revolts ?"—"It does not concern me alone ; my mother has answered for

me; would you have me bring her to an ignominious death?"—"I should be culpable to add another word."—"Theodore, to night, favoured by the dark, you must seek, you must find the entrance of the cavern."—"To night!"—"All here tremble at the name of Europe; shew but resolution and the guard will fly before you."—"To night!" repeated Theodore.—"Yes, it is absolutely necessary."—"I cannot do it."—"Prove your gratitude to Azili, and for her sake let me conjure you to depart."—"Well, then, I will go; I will quit a spot, where in thy form I have beheld the traces of divinity. And shall I go,—alone?"—"Alone," replied Azili, smiling and averting her eyes.—"Adieu, then," said Theodore, in a tone of the deepest despair.—"Adieu,

for ever," repeated Azili; and her face was bedewed with tears.

By an extraordinary effort she forced herself from the tomb. She had the courage to go, but the weakness to return. Theodore was on his knees, his arms extended towards her: in vain did she attempt to move; her feet seemed glued to the ground, and involuntarily spreading her arms, the transported Theodore rushed into them. Elina and Meloe shrieked with horror. Azili answered by a scream of terror.

Forgetting herself in her fears for Theodore, she covered him with her robe, pushed him towards the tomb, and made him descend the steps: but, not shutting the door, Theodore drew her after him, and swore to remain until her fate was decided.

The gentle and compassionate Azili,

believing cruelty incompatible with youth, intreated her companions to be humane and discreet. But fanaticism knows neither discretion nor humanity ; it tramples underfoot the ties of blood and stifles the voice of nature. She left the temple overwhelmed with grief, and prepared to undergo the punishment denounced against faithless priestesses. One circumstance however deprived death of half its bitterness. Elina and Meloe knew not the place of Theodore's concealment.

These young priestesses, conceiving they were pursuing the conduct most acceptable to their God, and thinking that to conceal Azili's crime would render them partakers of it, resolved to accuse her. Yet the feelings of their hearts but ill agreed with their religious opinions ; and they shuddered at the

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idea of the punishment that awaited her. "I can fancy," said Meloe, "I hear her agonizing shrieks."—"Her death," said her friend, "is present to my imagination."—"But should our God demand her punishment? Our God? Is he not her father? Elina!"—"Meloe! Do we experience the same sensations? Yes, emotions of pity, tenderness, and friendship—They must be suppressed; and, faithful to our vows, though trembling at the consequences, we must be her accusers. You hesitate?"—"Do not you too?"—"I fear to explain myself."—"Ah! speak. Good hearts interchange their thoughts with mutual confidence."—"Should the transports of Azili, which appeared to us so criminal, be no more than the result of compassion; should misfortune have driven the stranger hither—He is handsome;

but perhaps he is not wicked—He is alone; and one man cannot overturn an empire?—“Azili then is innocent?”—“I wish, I even believe it so. Go then to console her, and intreat her forgiveness.”—“That I shall easily obtain, for Azili is a stranger to hatred”—“Go, Meloe, go, my friend.”

She was departing just as Villuma, distressed by the inutility of his researches, and followed by the priests and virgins, entered the temple. Convinced that Theodore had been concealed by some of them, and hoping the secret of his retreat was known to many; he endeavoured to extort by the force of religious prejudices that discovery, which alone could allay the anguish of his soul. He flattered, he promised, he threatened, he soothed their fears, and again had recourse to threatenings and invo-

cations of their God. The violence of his emotions gave such irresistible force to his native eloquence, that Elina and Meloe, struck with terror, approached Anais and mentioned Azili.

This unhappy virgin had retired to her apartment, where she strove to conceal her sorrow, her affection, and her despair. Villama instantly commanded her presence in the sacred grove, trusting that the solemn gloom of those holy shades would powerfully impress her tender mind, and second his reproaches or intreaties. Feeling for Azili a paternal affection, and too enlightened, too elevated, to delight in cruelty, he anxiously wished to save her. Desirous of conversing with her in private, as soon as she appeared, he dismissed the rest. He began by declaring that Elina and Meloe had discovered all, trust-

ing that fear alone would induce her to betray herself.—“Elina and Meloe!” replied Azili, drowned in tears and almost suffocated by her sobs, “Elina and Meloe! cruel girls!”—“They have discharged their duty,” said Villuma, “but you have violated yours. Behold the image of that God, to whom you had consecrated your existence and for whom alone you ought to have lived; behold the altar at which you pronounced the sacred oath; contemplate the hallowed remains of the founders of our empire. Does the solemnity of this holy place, the profound silence that reigns amongst these venerated tombs, speak nothing to your degraded spirit? The truth sits upon your lips, but I cannot force it thence. An inconsiderate passion has taken possession of your heart, has prompted you to burst asunder the

bands of virtue, and encouraged you to commit a crime. The cruelties of Europe, pictured on these sacred walls, were before your eyes at the very moment you were receiving an European with complacency. Your astonishing delirium has polluted this sacred temple, has infected the very air we breathe. Your perversity is unbounded, and my reproaches are of no avail."—"I deserve them not," replied the terrified Azili. "You deserve to die,"—thundered Villuma. "To die!" cried his victim, cangealed with horror. "You know the dreadful, the irrevocable law; death! You tremble. Lay aside then your obstinacy, and manifest your contrition."—"My heart avows none."—"Fatal confession! Azili, were I to listen to my indignation, I should this moment discharge my dreadful duty. But I

am not one of those violent priests who think heaven delights in the offerings of cruelty. I remember I am your father ; and, possessing a father's feelings, I wish not to terminate your existence. Confess, and your life shall be preserved." — "Were I conscious of a crime, I would avow it," answered Azili.

"You have introduced an European into this hallowed grove. The most remote windings have been searched, and he is not to be found. Where is he? Tell me, and in an instant your fault shall be represented as a virtue ; it shall appear to the majority that you flattered our enemy, only to secure his confidence ; that you overcame the horror he inspired you with, only to deliver him more certainly to us ; I will impose silence on the rest, and you shall enjoy the gratitude of all ; your fate is in your

own hands.”—“ I will not betray the innocent.”—“ Think not of your accomplice ; his death is certain ; at all events our enemy must perish.”—“ Alas ! the sin then shall not be mine.”—“ Do you then brave my power ? do you despise my kindness ? ”—“ I honour, I respect you,” answered Azili, “ but can suffer and be silent : however wretched may be my fate, yet to it I am resigned.”—“ Resigned, do you say ! you sacrifice yourself to an idol of your imagination ! Unfeeling girl ! your heart, though inaccessible to fear, though insensible of kindness, may not yet be deaf to the voice of nature. Do you forget that a punishment more terrible than that of death will imbitter your last moments ? Has not your mother pledged her life on your fidelity to your God ? ”—“ My mother ! My mother ! ” exclaimed the terrified

Azili.—“They drag her,” proceeded Villuma, “from her peaceful habitation; they reproach her with a crime of which she is not a partaker; in her agonies you first suffer. Behold!—they tear in pieces the bosom that supported you, these sources of life from whence your infancy was nourished.”—“Say no more, ‘tis death to me.”—“In the horrors of her long and painful agony, she casts her mournful eyes on thee,—thee, the disgrace of her family, who mightest even yet be its boast : she expires, and thou, perishing in thy turn, diest a second death, followed to the tomb by the hatred and execrations of an indignant people.”—“My mother! My mother!” repeated Azili, with an emotion that choked her utterance.—“Unnatural daughter! you have but a moment to determine, and yet you hesitate.”

“No, no, I am decided.”—“Speak then, unhappy girl, speak. I say; where is our enemy?”—“Behold him,” exclaimed Theodore, bursting from the tomb, and eagerly presenting himself before the high priest.

Azili's cruel situation had for a long time been more than Theodore could endure. She would have devoted herself for him; he prevented her by sacrificing himself for her, and only entreated that the high priest would keep his promise.

Villuma, quickly interested by what was great, and struck with Theodore's magnanimity, as well as affected by his youth and beauty, hesitated a moment between his duty to his country, and the impulse of humanity. His irresolution could not escape the attentive Azili, who, falling at his feet, begged the

life of Theodore. Just as he was on the point of yielding, the image of the European escaped from the Peruvians and on his return to Quito, roused his dormant fears ; whilst all his prejudices against Europe, and the terrors he had excited in the Incas and people rushed upon his mind. Forgetting that he was a man, he recollected only his duties as the king and the priest ; and, clapping his hands, instantly the Incas, armed with darts and battle-axes, appeared and surrounded their victim. Azili, conceiving they would instantly dispatch him ; forgetful of her duty, her safety, even of her mother, and unrestrained by the presence of the high-priest, rushed into the midst of them. " Imprudent girl !" whispered Villuma, " you destroy yourself." She heard

him not ; but, throwing her arms round Theodore, invited the Incas to strike her first. Then, suddenly roused to a sense of her situation, and terrified by the confession that had escaped her, the dreadful picture of her parent's suffering presented itself in glowing colours to her imagination, and exclaiming, " My mother ! My mother ! " she fainted away.

The publicity of her conduct prevented Villuma from attempting any thing in her favour. Could he, to whom the execution of the laws was exclusively committed, be the first to encourage their infraction ? He reluctantly commanded Azili to be arrested ; an order which was executed with all the frigid severity of fanaticism.

Such were the purity and innocence of these people, that this was the first time the laws against any crime had been

put in execution. The prisons which deform the face of Europe, and which are generally overflowing with culprits, were unknown in Cayambur. Azili and Theodore was therefore conducted to a private house, and committed to the care of the Incas.

Villuma, thinking the destruction of this young man would ensure the safety of his people, persevered in his intention of sacrificing him; but, afflicted at the death of Azili, he wished to soften its bitterness, by separating her mother's fate from hers. He therefore gave no orders respecting her: but the superstitious piety of some Incas rendered them unnecessary; for, seizing this unfortunate woman, they were dragging her before the high-priest followed by the people, who with loud

cries demanded her punishment. Villuma had no right to oppose it, and still less to pardon her. The mob was furious, but he determined to espouse her cause; he therefore commanded the culprits to be brought before him, and the people, who, alone when legally convoked were able to decide upon the case, to be assembled.

In the mean time Azili recovered and found herself near Theodore, whom she contemplated without a murmur. A confused noise attracted their attention. They listened, and by the few words they were able to catch, understood that the inhabitants of the valley were to be assembled, and that themselves were to be brought before them. Theodore revived at the thought, and, relying upon the youth, beauty, and in-

accents of Azili, hoped to awaken their sensibility.

“No,” said he, “we shall not perish. Humanity is the same in every clime; they who speak its language are sure of attention; whilst we listen to the accents of misfortune, we insensibly become its friend.”—“Do not flatter yourself, my dear Theodore, with the hope of making an impression on the high-priest. Your efforts, like those of the powerless wave that dashes its foam upon the rock, would be fruitless.”—“The rock itself cannot resist the thunder; even he must be influenced by the voice of the people: let me but be heard, and I shall obtain my liberty and thine. We will leave Cayambur; and seek a corner of the world where we may rest from our sufferings,”—“Ah!

a desert and thy heart.”—“In thy society, a desert would become a paradise. Loving thee alone, thy wishes should be mine, and in thee should I find my country, family, my all: for thee only should I live.”—“Ah what a life of bliss! proceed, proceed.”—“Thy mother sharing with us the blessings we enjoyed.”—“My mother! Alas! thou hast destroyed the illusion, thou hast awakened me to myself, to a dreadful reality. In listening to thee; in attending to thy love; I forgot the claims of nature; I forgot my mother, who alone ought to occupy my thoughts. What have I done that thou shouldst so beset me?”—“Azili!”—“Carry hence thy perfidious charms; they have destroyed me. Wherefore have I beheld thee, cruel that thou art? If I knew not love, at least I was a stranger to

remorse. But thou appearedst; and my duty to my God, my mother, and myself, was sacrificed in an instant. Thy image haunted me by day; tormented me by night, and pursued me even to the foot of the altar. Barbarian! Restore to me my God, my innocence, my reason; restore to me my mother, restore her to me—I implore it on my knees—pity my despair—my mother!—my mother!”—“Ah! for heaven’s sake, calm thyself, my Azili! add not to our woes.”—“Thou speakest—again I hear thy voice; and my guilty heart, affected by the sound, seems starting from my bosom to unite itself with thine. Thy burning tears, falling on my hands, are diffused throughout my frame. No, I can no longer resist thy influence—it overpowers, it subdues me,—weep no more,

then, unhappy youth, nor add a double poignancy to my sorrows—I do not reproach thee ; thou didst not deceive me ; it was some hidden spirit, who, envious of my happiness, deprived me of my senses.”

After this violent effusion of a heart, affected by a variety of passions, Azili fell into a profound reverie. Theodore dared not approach her ; he even feared to meet her eyes, those eyes in which he had read his hopes of happiness. Keeping at a distance, he hid his face with his hands, and strove to conceal from Azili the tears which her situation and reproaches drew from him. “I have afflicted thee, my friend,” said she, “pardon me, pardon me ; I knew not what I said, I knew not what I did !” She extended her hand towards him ; he seized it, and press-

ing it to his bosom, mingled his tears with hers.

Every thing was prepared at the public tribunal for the consummation of a great act of justice. They marched thither to the sound of solemn music ; their eyes fixed on the ground, their faces covered with a veil. The day on which culprits were to be punished was a day of mourning. The golden throne of Villuma was borne by four Incas : the hierarch placed himself upon it ; Anais stood at his right hand, and the priests and virgins were ranged in a circle round them. The armed Incas held themselves in readiness to execute the orders of their prince ; while the surrounding space and the avenues were filled by the multitude. Theodore, Azili, and her mother, being brought forth, Anais

gave the virgins a signal: instantly they took her from her guards, deprived her of her crown, her veil, and consecrated zone, and let her long flaxen hair fall upon her shoulders. At this sight, her mother uttered a piercing shriek. Azili, perceiving her, would have darted towards her, but was restrained by her companions; who, ardently religious, informed her that the ties of consanguinity were broken, and broken by herself: the colour deserted her cheek, and she fainted in their arms.

Villuma had formed a plan for the preservation of the mother, which he thought would prove successful. Flattering himself that a sense of equity, accompanied by his influence, would enable him to control their blind zeal, he took the volume of the law in his

hand ; and, pronouncing with a loud voice the sentence Manco had denounced against unfaithful priestesses, remarked that he did not find one word which affected the relations of the guilty person. He represented that the indiscreet zeal of the successors of Manco had given a rigour to this law beyond his intentions ; that the mother of Azili was not a partaker in the crime of her daughter ; and that the blood of innocence was an abhorrence to their God. “ This woman,” added he, “ is of the race of Capana ; she has religiously fulfilled the duties of a wife, a mother, and a subject ; long has she been possessed of my esteem and your respect. Which of us shall dare to present at the altar a victim adorned with these virtues ; they interpose themselves betwixt her and the

fatal knife ; they utter a voice louder than that of the law to which they are opposed. That law, then, being unjust, cannot proceed from heaven.

A murmur of disapprobation interrupted, but did not disconcert, Villuma ; and he hastened to resume his harangue ; certain of calming their minds, could he but secure their attention. " I know," said he, " I know it does not belong to me to alter customs rendered sacred by the approbation of ages. It was my duty to deliver my opinion ; and I have discharged it. You alone are authorized to decide this question ; and by you only shall it be decided. To your justice, therefore, I confide this afflicted mother. Is there one amongst you, deaf to the voice of humanity ? that voice which echoes in every heart, and elevates the soul that

hearkens to its suggestions? Is there a Peruvian a-thirst for the blood of innocence? let him come forward, and satiate himself with that of this devoted victim. Behold her no longer protected by my tutelary arm. But let it be remembered that the blood flowing in her veins is that of Capana; of that Capana, to whom your ancestors owed their lives, to whom you are indebted for existence."

He paused and looked around him. The most enthusiastic preserved a profound silence. Fixing their eyes on the ground, an ingenuous blush rose in their cheeks, and they reproached themselves for an emotion so contrary to the native goodness of their hearts. Approaching the mother of Azila, they upbraid her. "Ah!" cried Villuma, "I knew you would correct your

error; and that innocence would ever be esteemed sacred by the children of the Sun. Conduct her to her home; console her under the grief of being a mother; prepare her for being no longer such."

This unfortunate parent cast an anxious look towards her daughter; but, loading her with caresses, they removed her from this scene of misery, and Azili's petrified heart was for a moment alive to joy

The life of Theodore was the only object at which Villuma seriously aimed. Flattered by his success in saving one life, he anxiously wished to extend his victory, and shelter Azili from the severity of the law. But the law was so exact that it was impossible to explain it in her favour. The people also had proved by their murmurs, their attach-

ment to what they esteemed sacred : and if, whilst he endeavoured to preserve Azili, he should rouse their indignation, it might endanger his own authority, excite a revolt fatal to himself, and plunge the colony into the very evils he wished to prevent by the death of the youth, whose fate he secretly lamented. After a moment's reflection, he deemed it necessary to sacrifice Azili for his own ; and perhaps for his country's security. Warmly as he had defended the mother, self-preservation made him now seem as warmly bent upon punishing the daughter. Turning towards her, and assuming that air of severity which the habit of dissimulating had rendered familiar ; " Azili," said he, " You have degraded your august ministry ; sacrilegious love has found a receptacle in your heart ; you have openly

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avowed it, what defence can you make ?”
—“ My fears for my mother having subsided,” answered Azili, “ my courage has returned. No longer a fearful suppliant bending before your throne, and doing homage to your pride, I venture now to speak ; I appeal to the justice of the people ; they have liberated one victim, they will liberate another.

“ When I pronounced my vow at the altar, and swore never to think of, never to love, any thing but my God, knew I what I said ? Not yet arrived at the age of reason, I was incapable of judging for myself. If to love be a crime, why did not that terrible God strike me to the heart, and annihilate me at the very moment that I defied his power ? What do I say ? Are we able to resist the charm of that enchanting passion ? Is it not an emanation of the divinity ?

What but the divine hand could implant it in our bosoms ? And would he arm me against himself with his own blessings ? would he delight in spreading snares in my path ? would he engage in an unequal conflict with his creature ? Far from us be such revolting ideas. I created not myself ; and to yield to the dictates of my heart is to obey my God.

“I have, they say, aggravated my crime by loving an European. Does the sun shine on the valley of Cayambur ? Are not the inhabitants of every clime vivified by his heat, and equally his children ? Answer, you who hear me. Suppose this unfortunate being, pursued by his enemies, had fallen at the feet of one of you. Suppose he had said, ‘behold a wretched fugitive ; guiltless, though proscribed,

I trust to your generosity, for safety. The Spaniards were barbarians ; you will follow the dictates of humanity ; you will not resemble them.'—Which of you would have abused his confidence ? Which of you would have betrayed him ? Who would not have yielded to the suggestions of compassion ? People, this is my crime. I have shielded an unfortunate from the fury of his persecutors ; and, concealing him in the tombs of your fathers, have afforded innocence an asylum in the final retreat of the virtuous.

“ No ; I have not degraded my ministry, but have honoured the divinity in imitating his beneficence. They alone offend him, who, painting him after their own image, would represent him as ferocious as themselves.”

This speech was calculated either to overpower their affections, or more completely to embitter men, whose superstitions it directly attacked. A confused murmur arose.

Villuma ready to seize every advantage in her favour, and wishing to observe the effect she had produced, before he formed his resolution, discovered nothing but anger and indignation in their countenances. "Is then," cried he, addressing himself to Azili, "is your impiety thus unbounded, and does blasphemy defile your lips? Formed to adore and to obey in silence, you have dared to question the propriety of your duty, and accuse heaven of not inverting the order of nature in your behalf. It ought, you say, to have extinguished your impious affections; it was you who ought to have combated

them, and the palm of virtue would have awaited your victory. You regret your vows at the altar! What destiny could be more honourable than yours! A servant of the great God himself, you were charged to offer him the homage, the gratitude, and the love, of his people; you stood between heaven and earth, and by your intercession attracted the regards of the divine father to his children. What more was wanting to your glory? But your daring presumption forgot the distance betwixt the creature and the creator; you renounced his worship, defiled his altars, and now you dare to invoke the justice of the people." The cry of death! death! resounded from every quarter.

Light itself could not more quickly strike the senses of Theodore, than did the noise of this dreadful cry. All his

faculties were in an instant suspended, and as instantaneously restored at the collection that on his presence of remand depended the fate of himself and of Azili. Affecting a tranquillity that he did not feel, he demanded an hearing ; and, without the experience of Villuma, displayed equal address. " At the moment," says he, " that your fatal decree threatens the priestess, and myself, I will raise my feeble voice. But persecuted by the high-priest, and condemned already in his mind, what effect can my vain complaints produce ? Ought not you to see and think as he does ? Ought you not blindly to submit to his will ? Do not consider whether a feeble being, without arms or any means of defence, is able to inspire reasonable fears ? do not inquire whether I have relatives to whom I am

dear ? Forget that yourselves are fathers, and that one day your children may supplicate hearts deaf to the language of distress : harden yours, avert your eyes, and prepare to consummate the sacrifice.

“But, before you strike, should you reflect a moment, should you listen, not to idle prejudices, but to those eternal and immutable laws, which are understood alike by men of every age and every place, you will look with compassion on this virgin and myself. Where is the priest who proudly dares to intrude between heaven and us ? Where are the credentials of his mission ? The Almighty bids the thunder roll, and never suffers his creatures to direct its dreadful bolts. Behold that virgin, whom your mistaken zeal had doomed to sterility : contemplate her,

and ask yourselves if nature did not design her to be a mother. Then turn your attention to an unhappy wretch, on whose punishment your priest had resolved, before he had been either seen or heard. Listen to truth, and let your fears subside. People, I was not born among your oppressors. It was from them I fled when I entered this valley. Like you, I detest their crimes ; like you, I know the miseries endured by your ancestors. Often have my tears sullied the pages of their mournful history ; often has this hand avenged the blood of Peruvians by that of their enemies. And would you arm yourselves against one, who loved your virtues before he was acquainted with your persons ? who served you without your being conscious of it ? No, you will restore us to liberty ; you will

permit us to seek an asylum, where, far from you, we may forget our unparalleled misfortunes. The secret of your retreat shall be buried in our bosoms, and shall die with us. I swear it by all the ties of nature and honour; by thee, O venerable Las Casas! whose revered statue I have here beheld. Thou wert the friend of their fathers, who adored thy virtues, honoured thy benevolence, and transmitted the memory of thy worthy deeds to their latest posterity. May thy recollection, which I invoke, protect and defend us! may the tomb, already yawning to receive us, close at the sound of thy name! and may our v ^es be the fruits of their gratitude! Generous and sensible people, the virtuous apostle of India still preserves his influence over your hearts;

you are affected—ah! your hands will remain pure, and we shall live to bless you.”

The graces of this young man, his animation and ingenuousness, and the tone of truth, which hypocrisy but imperfectly imitates, touched their hearts. They looked inquisitively at each other; they consulted, and knew not what resolution to take. “Far from being a Spaniard,” said they, “he declares himself their enemy. Ignorant of the laws of Cayambur, he sought only safety from his persecutors; and the rest was accidental. It would be dreadful to sacrifice this young man; and it is inconceivable the high-priest should persevere in such a determination.”

Villuma, quick in observing whatever opposed his designs, instantly perceived their favourable inclination towards

Theodore. Accustomed to the uncontrolled exercise of his authority, he supported with impatience this appearance of opposition; but, knowing that to combat a general wish with advantage, he must first affect to coincide with it; "Who," says he, "who can resist that eloquence which penetrates and subdues the heart? Ah! the exercise of clemency is the sweetest of pleasures, the first of the virtues. Happy they, whose hearts are alive to this heavenly sensation; who, fearing nothing for themselves, yield without apprehension to its enchanted influence! Happy, when they can say, 'We have dried the tears of the unfortunate, and though he wished to deceive us we deprived him of the power!'—People, this is your situation; let us at least inquire into it. My whole life has been devoted to your

service ; and shall a stranger efface in a moment the memory of my labours ? Will you refuse attention to your father ?

“ This young man has, he informs you, fought with your enemies ; from them he fled ; them he detests. His love for you resembles that of Las Casas, and like him would he serve you. Where are the proofs of his exploits, or what services can he render you ? Gladly would I believe the truth of his declarations ; willingly would I forget the injurious expressions, which his anguish probably extorted. Should I, respecting the interest he has excited in your breasts, grant him his life, would prudence justify you in doing the same ? Already has he confirmed the fears I yesterday expressed. To keep him in the valley is to endanger your altars,

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on which he comes to lay his daring hands; it is to deliver up to him the purity of your virgins; and he, who can despise their engagements, will not respect the obligations of matrimony. Will you be so weak as to deliver at once to him your religion and its ministers, your public and private customs? I esteem your judgment too highly to fear it. If you suffer him to depart, you entrust your safety to his discretion. Youth is irresolute, and your enemies are subtle. Should they find him on his leaving the valley, will they not punish him for having broken his chains? Certain of disarming them by discovering where gold is to be found, will he have the courage to be silent? What do I say? Will he not prevent their inquiries? Will he not unite with them to avenge the loss of the perjured?

Azili? and what bonds will be set to
 the carnage? Should he, contrary to
 my expectation, keep his oath; still you
 would live in constant fear of being be-
 trayed; and shall the life of one be put
 into competition with the repose of all!
 Ah! when Europeans have exterminat-
 ed millions of your countrymen; with-
 out deigning to inquire whether they
 were innocent or guilty; when they
 have given you such an example of
 ferocity, do you fear to be just? The
 ghosts of your ancestors demand their
 execution for your preservation! These
 angry spirits, angry at your tardiness
 and indecision, crowd into this circle;
 they surround, they seize their victims:
 Rest in peace, ye sacred shades! your
 children shall execute your decrees.
 Yet, a little moment, and you shall be
 satisfied.

“Night begins to spread her veil over the earth. Let her deepest shades conceal the blood your prudent foresight compels you to shed. Go ; let all be prepared in the sacred grove, that your God, again commencing his brilliant career, may find no traces of the faithless priestess and her guilty lover.”

The mind of the people is like a bending reed that waves with every blast. Theodore again attempted to speak, but they refused to hear. Strongly bound with cords of cotton, that severely bruised the tender and delicate Azili ; they were conducted to the consecrated wood, and surrounded by the Incas with their bows bent. Preparations were made for their punishment, at the foot of that very tomb they were said to have profaned.

While their fate had been uncertain,

Elina and Meloe felt no remorse. As soon, however, as the culprits were condemned, they relented; and their barbarous zeal was suppressed by the voice of humanity. Sorrowful and penitent, they descended hand in hand to the place where the victims were guarded, and stopping at a little distance, viewed them with compassion. "Behold the wretched beings, who to our ill-timed zeal owe their dreadful punishment." Deeply affected by the sight, they hid their sighs and remorse in each other's bosom; when Meloe in a broken voice exclaimed, "To take away the life of our friend, our companion!"—"Because she loved!"—"Unhappy that we are, what have we done!"—"It was you that wished it," said Elina.—"I thought I served my God."—"Could he be a God, and not be good?"

“To him, at least, belongs the right to punish!”—“Who are we, that we should presume to anticipate his vengeance?”—“Elina, what remorse do I, experience.”—And I, Meloe, and I!”—“Hast thou nothing more to add?”—“I fear to speak.”—“Why shouldst thou fear thy Meloe?”—“We should expose ourselves.”—“Of what consequence is that, did we hesitate when we betrayed her?”—“Knowest thou not the severity of the high-priest?”—“I know also the misery I have occasioned.”—“Ah! yes, our hearts understand each other; we have committed an error which must be repaired.”—These amiable children embraced each other with transport.—“And by what means?”—replied Elina.—“I know not,” mournfully answered Meloe.—“Nor I,” said Elina,

in a tone of greater melancholy.—
—“They are condemned, bound.”—
“And closely guarded too.”—“Let
us reflect, let us consider.”—“Ah!
we have but a moment, and I can
find nothing but tears.”—“God of
mercy, inspire us!” falling on their
knees, and raising their clasped hands
towards heaven.

- Elina, the eldest, was pure as the
limpid stream in which she bathed;
a rose bud as yet uninjured by the
blast. But innocence is not incompati-
ble with vivacity; vivacity is the
daughter of a lively imagination; and
a lively imagination is never des-
titute of resources. Elina, sudden-
ly rising, assumed an appearance of
the greatest terror. The ingenuous
Meloe attentively observed her. With
an unsteady pace, a wild eye, and a

palpitating bosom, she ran towards the guards of Azili and Theodone. The pale light of the flambeaux assisted the illusion. "They have entered," said she, in a feigned voice; "they are in the valley."—"Who?" demanded the chief of the Incas.—"The Europeans who pursued this traitor."—"Where have they entered? the guard at the cavern has not quitted its post."—Elina, confused, knew not what to answer; but her companion, who had caught her idea, replied: "by the help of unknown machines, they have climbed to the top of the mountain. They approach: hark! I hear their voices. Listen, listen." The astonishment of the Incas gave Elina time to recover herself. "There, there, they are! see you not their swords glittering in the moon beams? Hasten, run, assemble

round the highpriest; fight and save your country."—"I faint; I die."—"Ah me, Spaniards, save Azili;"—"Ah me," cried Theodore, as completely deceived as his guards. At this exclamation, the Incas threw down their arms as useless ornaments, and dispersing, spread the alarm throughout Cayambur.

The guard at the cavern, terrified at the confusion that reigned in the valley, felt their disquietude at the circumstance, increased by the uncertainty of its cause. Fearing for their wives, their mistresses, their parents, or their children, they disbanded, and partaking of the general terror spread the alarm still farther. Disorder was at its height. The most courageous of the men assembled; and, forming a circle, placed their families in the midst

of it, without any other hope than that of perishing before these objects of their affections. Ignorant of war, they knew not how to oppose enemies, who had been represented as privileged beings, farocious by instinct; having thunder at their disposal, and conquering every thing with the same ease as they tamed the monsters who fought under them.

Blina and Melee, taking advantage of the general consternation, and cutting the cords that bound Azili and Theodore; "Seize," said they, "the present moment; be gone, and may heaven protect you!" They then returned to the temple, certain of not being discovered by the Locas, from whom the darkness and their veils had effectually concealed them. The mind of Theodore passed suddenly from the

extreme of consternation, to the hope of saving Azili. With one hand he seized a battle-axe that lay at his feet; with the other, he supported and conducted her. There was no way of escape but through the cavern. He expected to find it guarded; but he had courage, and an arm at liberty; and his enemies were rendered effeminate by the tranquil life to which they had long been accustomed. Determined to obtain a passage, he arrived with Azili at the entrance. O inexpressible surprise! it is abandoned! "What a providence!" cried he, "the passage is free. Fear not to follow me. My honour is the safeguard of thy innocence."—"I esteem you too highly not to confide in you," replied she. Thus this interesting pair entered the bowels of the earth, with

out considering what might be their fate. Love never calculates consequences. Azili thought only of Theodor, escaped from the death that had just awaited him. Theodore believed that the Spaniards would not take a woman's life without provocation ; and his concern for himself was overpowered by the hope of saving her : " Let me die, may she but live," said he to himself, as he conducted her through the passage.

This extraordinary alarm had in the mean time reached the palace of Villuma. The pontiff, uneasy as long as he believed Theodore alive, sallied out ; and report, which ever delights in exaggeration, announced that Indian blood had flowed, and that the colony was lost. Villuma did not believe this unexpected news, but his duty would

not suffer him to disregard it. Returning to put off his pontifical robes and to arm himself, he hastily rushed out, determined to know whether his last hour was come, or whether a groundless panic had taken possession of his subjects.

Obliged to wear an external reserve, and to maintain that silent dignity, which with the vulgar passes for majesty and depth of thought, he recompensed himself in meditation for the constraint imposed upon him by his rank. To this he owed the discovery of those sublime truths, which had convinced him of the errors of his religious worship, had enlarged the faculties of his soul, and taught him the worthlessness of sovereign power when not employed in promoting the true honour and happiness of the people.

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Confirmed in these principles, and supported by such dignified sentiments, he walked with a firm and equal pace. Calling to several whom he knew, with a wish to interrogate them, they neither heard nor answered; and he, in his turn, began to think the alarm had a reasonable cause, and determined to die as he had lived. He observed a body of Indians whom he took for Spaniards; and, throwing himself into the midst of them, found they were those brave men who had made their bodies a rampart for their families. They explained their intentions, and he, in his turn, reproached their resignation as useless to themselves and their country; he represented that boldly to brave death was the only means of securing victory, and thus infused into their bosoms the energy that animated

his own. It was no longer the priest that addressed them, but the hero who persuaded and led them on. Forming themselves into companies, they followed him and advanced to meet the enemy. Many fugitives joined them as they proceeded; and the timid and gentle Peruvians, listening to their prince, felt themselves transformed into soldiers. His firmness and tranquillity removed the fears of the helpless; order was restored; and the night was passed in searching the wood, the plain, and the rocks.

The source of these chimerical fears, which had deceived a whole nation, was at length discovered. The Incas accused two young priestesses, who were unknown to them; and Vilharr, repairing in haste to the spot where Azili and Theodore had been left, found

nothing but the cords, by which they had been confined.

It instantly occurred to him that this false alarm had been given to facilitate the escape of the captives. In a calmer moment he would probably have endeavoured to bring the culprits to justice; but greater concerns now engaged his attention. It was his present duty to take measures to ensure the safety of his whole people, and not to sacrifice, on doubtful evidence, two virgins whose guilt could not be proved. The appearance of Azili's robes, glittering with gold and silver, would, he foresaw, give intimation to the Spaniards of the riches to be found in Cayambur, and that every nerve would be exerted to obtain them. Relying but little on the valour of the majority of the Peruvians, he judged that the only method of

frustrating the designs of such ferocious enemies was to abandon for ever the delightful idea of returning to the plain of Quito, the cradle of their ancestors ; and to close the aperture of the cavern without delay. " Take," said he to the leaders of the people, " take the Peruvians under your orders, and let them break masses of rock from the mountain, and roll them to the mouth of the cavern : let these be thrust in and heaped over it ; for it is from such measures alone we may indulge the pleasing hope that we and our descendants shall live and die in this place."

But to return to the Spaniards who had pursued Theodore. Having waited in vain the greater part of the day, expecting he would appear and surrender, three of them, more hardy or more impatient than the rest, ventured to en-

ten the cavern. They penetrated to a considerable length, preserving that coolness of temper which is so necessary to distinct observation. Theodore was not to be found, and a cold air, that blew upon them at the various turnings of the passage, convinced them it had another aperture. But whither could it lead? It could not be to places inhabited. They had frequently found gold in the common soil of the country; might they not here discover a new mine, which would enrich them for ever? The party was too small to pursue their researches alone; they therefore returned to their companions, and related their conjectures. There were but two plans they could possibly adopt: the one, which appeared preferable, was to consult their private advantage, and if they found gold, to divide it among

themselves. Inconveniences, however, which could not escape their observation, attended the execution of this design; and the difficulty of stealing unobserved from the fortress, together with the certainty of condign punishment, should they be suspected and pursued, determined them at once to relinquish it. The other plan, less advantageous indeed, but more certain of being successful, was to make a merit of their discovery to the commandant, and to expect from him the customary rewards and promotion. This was unanimously adopted, and a party was dispatched to the fortress, whilst the rest remained near the entrance of the cavern.

Theodore and Azili were in the mean time painfully advancing. He walked first, holding her with one hand, and

with the other feeling for the projecting rocks. It is natural to suppose that she, educated in elegance and plenty, respected and beloved by her friends, renouncing at once all these advantages, and going amongst strangers from whom she could expect nothing but contempt and misery, by a path too whose difficulties were enough to damp the courage of the boldest man, must be a prey to the bitterest reflections. Azili, however, in the midst of her difficulties felt nothing like this. The idea of being happy with Theodore, whose hand she held, and the loss of whose affection was the only source of wretchedness she could conceive, absorbed every other thought. Theodore, more experienced, possessed greater foresight, and could not dissemble the dangers they had to encounter

He kept Azili behind him, determined to expose himself first to the blows of the Spaniards, should they still be upon the platform, and hoping before he expired to recommend her to their mercy. Sometimes he indulged the expectation that, wearied by fruitless researches, they had returned to their post, and that conducting Azili by the path by which they had ascended, he might avoid the fort whose situation he now knew ; and, reaching Lima with his companion, obtain from the viceroy that protection his former benevolence encouraged him to expect. Again these hopes appeared illusive, yet he entertained them as the only means of supporting his courage.

Already the darkness began to diminish, and soon they saw and smiled upon each other. The mouth of the ca-

vern was distant about twenty paces: Theodore stopped, and, listening and looking around, neither saw nor heard any thing. The Spaniards, confident of their number and strength, were reposing amongst the shrubs, their arms scattered about. Encouraged by the silence that prevailed, Theodore advanced with Azili from the cavern. He stumbled over a Spanish soldier, who was asleep at his feet. The man awoke; and, instantly alarming his comrades, they arose all at once, and seeing Azili, exclaimed, "Behold, there is gold."

Theodore wished to speak to them, but they would not allow him time. The soldier, whom he had found at his feet, seeing he had a weapon, attacked him with his sabre; Theodore felled him to the ground with a blow of his

battle-axe, and instantly seized his hanger. The terrified Azili, making an extraordinary effort, drew him towards her ; and, pushing him into the cavern, immediately followed. It was time ; for the Spaniards, enraged at the loss of their comrade, and wanting but the slightest pretext for the murder of one whose presence would impede the execution of their designs, fired a volley into the mouth of the passage. Fortunately, a projection of the rock defended them. Azili, yet more alarmed, caught Theodore by the arm, and, dragging him along, became conductor in her turn. "Follow me," said she, "I conjure you ; you will perish without being able to save me. The secret of my country is discovered ; live to defend it. Let us make the Peruvians blush at their injustice ; let us disarm

them by our generosity. You are now acquainted with the turnings of the cavern ; let us hasten to escape from the Spaniards before they have time to form a plan for pursuing us." Theodore, seeing death on both sides, and fearing less for Azili from the Spaniards than the Peruvians, resisted her intreaties. "For you," continued she, "I have renounced my honour and my life ; to me you shall sacrifice your resentment."—"I no longer feel any, my Azili."—"Well, then, choose between the protection of Cayambur, and the ignoble death to be expected from the Spaniards ; abandon to the sword of the murderer her who adores you, or justify what she has done for your sake."—"You wish it, and you dread my suspense. The Peruvians have been unjust, they will probably be ungrateful."—"No matter,

I will defend them; your country shall be mine, and I will know no other. You have hitherto been only the object of my affections; now you shall be my hero, our tutelary God, and our deliverer."

The noise of the firing, which resounded farther and farther in the lower part of the cavern, announced that they were pursued. They increased their speed, and the sound diminishing as they advanced, convinced them they should reach Cayambur before the Spaniards.

A second detachment from the fort had arrived just as Theodore and Azili re-entered the cavern. The commander, having heard their relation, had immediately dispatched twenty armed men, laden with provisions, and furnished with flambeaux and instruments pro-

per for enlarging the opening and leveling the ground : and sent a courier with all expedition to Quito, to inform the governor of an attempt from which he did not expect the smallest success. But where is the officer who is not anxious to prove to his superiors his zeal for the aggrandizement and splendour of his government ?

The twenty soldiers were soon informed, by the ten that had remained, that a Peruvian, covered with gold, had appeared on the platform ; a proof that the interior of the mountain was inhabited, and also that the population must be numerous, as her dress indicated the existence of the arts. The Spaniards were only thirty in number ; and, as prudence forbade their attacking men whom slavery had not reduced to the degradation of the Peruvians on the

plain, it was proposed to send a second deputation to the commander of the fort, requesting such a sufficient number from Quito as might enable them to make excavations on the sides of the cavern, that they might advance in a body accompanied by their artillery. This was the general opinion : but a Spaniard, more intrepid than his comrades, representing the absurdity of suffering their commander to share the whole glory and advantage of an expedition, which would enrich and immortalize them, reminded them of Pizarro, who, with a handful of men, destroyed the empire of Peru ; that even the circumference of the mountain announced but an inconsiderable population, which thirty resolute Spaniards might at first terrify by their arms, and afterwards destroy or put to flight at pleasure. He added, that it was true the Peruvians

had an European amongst them, but could this man in one day give them both discipline and courage? Then, by flattering the two most powerful passions amongst the vulgar, ambition and avarice, he persuaded them to adopt his advice, and the soldiers entered the cavern, resolved to glut themselves with blood and gold.

The Peruvians, in the mean time, animated by the exhortations and example of the high-priest, whose fears were but too well-founded, were rolling forward the masses of rock, which in the days of Capana had covered the mouth of the cavern. This labour, though less severe than that commanded by Valluma, was attended with considerable difficulty, and was but little advanced when Theodore and Azili made their appearance again in Cayambur.

They were first perceived by the pontiff, whose paternal solicitude embraced every object at once. The sword, glittering in the hand of Theodore, did not disconcert the Peruvian hero; "follow me," said he, addressing himself to the Incas, "I will devote my life to afford you an opportunity of taking his : follow me, I will throw myself upon his weapon."—"Stop" cried Theodore, with tranquillity, "You have proscribed me, but I come for your defence. I have sworn it by Las-Casas, and will keep my oath." The astonished Peruvians listened attentively. An unhappy stranger, whom they, without remorse, were about to sacrifice, was become the admired avenger of Peru: they were ready to embrace his knees, and endeavoured, by their caresses, to make him forget the indignities he had received from them. "Hasten," said

Theodore, "they are about to enter the valley. Their number is small, and may easily be subdued, if you have only the courage to encounter them. Peruvians, I entrust Azili to your care and protection: should I die in your defence, let her life be the price of my sacrifice." "Brave youth," answered Villuma, "whom I so unjustly appreciated, you extort my admiration and esteem. I possess only courage, but you shall guide my inexperience, and teach me to conquer as you have already taught me to forgive."

Theodore made his arrangements as swift as thought. He commanded them to withdraw into the interior, and allow the Spaniards to advance into the valley. He placed himself at the head of a hundred of the brave men, who had the preceding evening determined to die rather than behold the massacre of

their wives and children; and undertook to lead them to the charge. Villuma and the rest of the party were concealed in a field of maize at a little distance, and ordered not to shew themselves till they heard the noise of arms. "Then," said he, you will attack the Spaniards in the rear, and cut off their retreat. Shew but resolution, and I will answer for the victory."

He knew how easily the entrance of the valley might have been defended, but the greater the obstacles opposed to their admission, the greater would have been the danger of the Peruvians; for the Spaniards had only to send for additional succour, and the arts of mining with which they are acquainted would tender all resistance ineffectual. It was necessary therefore to draw them into the valley; and, by cutting off the whole party, leave it to be conjectured they had perished by accident.

The Peruvians, ignorant of the fatal art of war, without entering into the merits of Theodore's dispositions, submitted implicitly to his directions.

Arrived at the mouth of the cavern, the Spaniards were struck with the beauty of the country, and emboldened by the solitude that reigned around. The sight of the gold, with which the soil abounded, exhilarated their spirits, and every one imagined himself a Pizarro. Accordingly they formed close order; and, with their arms presented and their fingers on the trigger, marched towards the nearest habitations. Theodore, rightly conceiving that the ardour of the Peruvians would soon abate if they were long exposed to the Spanish fire, concealed them behind a building, where he kept up their courage by his animated exhortations; and waited for the enemy till they were near enough

to be prevented, by his furious onset, from re-loading their musquets.

The Spaniards, astonished that no one appeared, began to think in their turn they had been discovered ; and dreaded lest this profound silence should be the prelude to a surprise. They held therefore a council of war, and determined, if it were yet possible, to retreat, and manage with prudence the discovery they had made. Their design, which would have disconcerted his plan, was instantly penetrated by Theodore ; who advanced with his men, and furiously attacked them in the midst of their deliberations. Quickly resuming their former order, they fired on the Peruvians ; but the movement was executed with so much precipitation, that few of their balls took effect. Theodore, the sabre in his hand, darted forward ; and, closely followed by his men, engaged

them hand to hand. The bayonet made dreadful havock. Some of the Spaniards had fallen, but the rest defended themselves with great spirit. The torrents of blood terrified the Peruvians, who disbanded and let fly their arrows without effect. In vain did Theodore attempt to rally them, till, despairing of success and wishing to terminate such a series of misfortunes, he threw himself headlong into the midst of them, and would have been instantly destroyed, had not Villuma at that moment advanced and attacked them with impetuosity. Their enemies, affrighted, knew not where to turn, whilst the routed Peruvians came back to the charge with redoubled fury ; till, surrounded on every side, and overpowered by numbers, they all perished as the followers of Cortez and Pizarro justly deserved.

Such an advantage over Europeans,

hitherto deemed invincible, raised this people in their own estimation, and they considered themselves as the avengers of their ancestors. They revered Theodore, who had directed their first exploits, as a second Las Casas, as a deity come from heaven for the salvation of Cayambur. Placed in a palanquin covered with cloth of gold, he was borne upon the shoulders of the priests, whilst the people followed loading him with benedictions. Azili and the priestesses advanced from the temple, scattering flowers and burning perfumes, to salute the conqueror of the Spaniards. Proud of his exploits, she walked by the side of the palanquin, and Theodore, regarding her with tenderness, seemed to say, "it is for you I have conquered," and the expressive eye of Azili answered, "I shall be your reward." The hero was carried into the

sanctuary, and placed by the side of the statue of Las Casas : the name of Theodore became consecrated with that of the virtuous apostle of India.

Honours, so extraordinary, naturally give rise to reflections on their former conduct. They recollected the warmth with which Villuma had persecuted the man to whom they were indebted for every thing. Restless spirits complained loudly of the high-priest. Some attributed to premeditated cruelty, measures which prudence alone had suggested ; others accused him of wishing to destroy a hero, whose brilliant qualities must obscure his own, and who must alarm his ambition ; whilst the majority reproached him for having seduced the Peruvians to pronounce a sentence disgraceful to their national character. Having once transgressed the bounds of subordination, they quickly

passed to the extreme of rebellion, and began to talk of proscribing Villuma in his turn ; whilst the more moderate party wished only to separate the dignity of king from the priesthood, and to confer the former on Theodore. Villuma, informed of what was plotting against him, hoped by his presence to allay their discontent ; and, appearing in the midst of the factious party, addressed them with that calm dignity which never forsook him. The most violent answered him with imprecations, struck him, and stripped him of his crown and other ensigns of royalty.

The presence of his beloved Azili effaced from Theodore's mind the recollection of his laurels ; but, learning that Villuma was menaced, he hastened to present himself to the people. The crowd opened at his approach ; and, entering the circle, he beheld the high-

priest, disgraced, but not deprived of his native dignity. A Peruvian, as he attempted to draw near, on his bended knee offered him the crown. "Youthful hero," exclaimed he, deign to accept the homage of a whole people; may their gratitude efface the recollection of their injustice!"

Conceiving it impossible for him to refuse a throne, together with the opportunity of avenging himself on a once-powerful enemy, Villuma felt the extent of his misfortune, and boldly addressed his successful rival. "Think not," said he, "I shall demean myself to solicit your pardon; nor fear my attempts to recover the affections of a people, who merit only my indignation and most profound contempt. My fate is in your hands; let me see how you will use your power."—"I will learn of you," replied Theodore, taking the

crown, and placing it on the head of Villuma ; " you loved your people ; for their safety you sacrificed a man whose appearance was suspicious ; your wisdom and valour entitle you to reign, and demand my homage and respect." The Peruvians rent the air with acclamations, " People," replied the youth, " behold your priest and your king : far from depriving him of his authority, my ambition is only to maintain it. What do I say ? you would not constrain me to take up arms against my friend, and dishonour myself by an unjust usurpation ? Repair then the error of a moment, and deserve the pardon which your king will not refuse to my entreaties." A profound silence ensued ; and the modest refusal of Theodore charmed while it reproved them. Confused and humbled, they silently dispersed, and nothing remained,

but the recollection of a tempest which had threatened their total destruction.

Necessity unites men of the most opposite sentiments. Villuma embraced Theodore, and, pressing him to his bosom, exclaimed, "Conduct such as this obliges without degrading me. I feel no difficulty in being indebted to you for every thing. Yes! you shall be my friend, my counsellor, and my support; you shall assist me in bearing the burthen of the state."

As the long absence of the Spaniards must necessarily awaken the suspicions of their comrades at the fort, the Peruvians could not consider their danger as ended. Should they block up only the interior mouth of the cavern, no doubt their enemies would find means to force it open; therefore, Theodore determined so to conceal the outward aper-

ture, as to prevent it henceforth from ever being discovered. Masses of rock, covered with moss, were pushed on the outside, and the interstices filled up with earth, to which the sun would soon give an appearance of age, and the whole so closely united to the body of the mountain, that the report of the soldiers must appear to the commander to have been a mere fiction.

It now only remained to determine the fate of Azili; no longer desirous of her life, their only wish was to make her happy. Theodore, conscious that Villuma loved her, and relying upon his influence over the people, demanded her hand as the reward of his services. "Your God," says he, "desires the sacrifice of willing hearts; hers is no longer free, and his altars reject her. Restore her to her mother and to me; you will then have discharged your obligation.

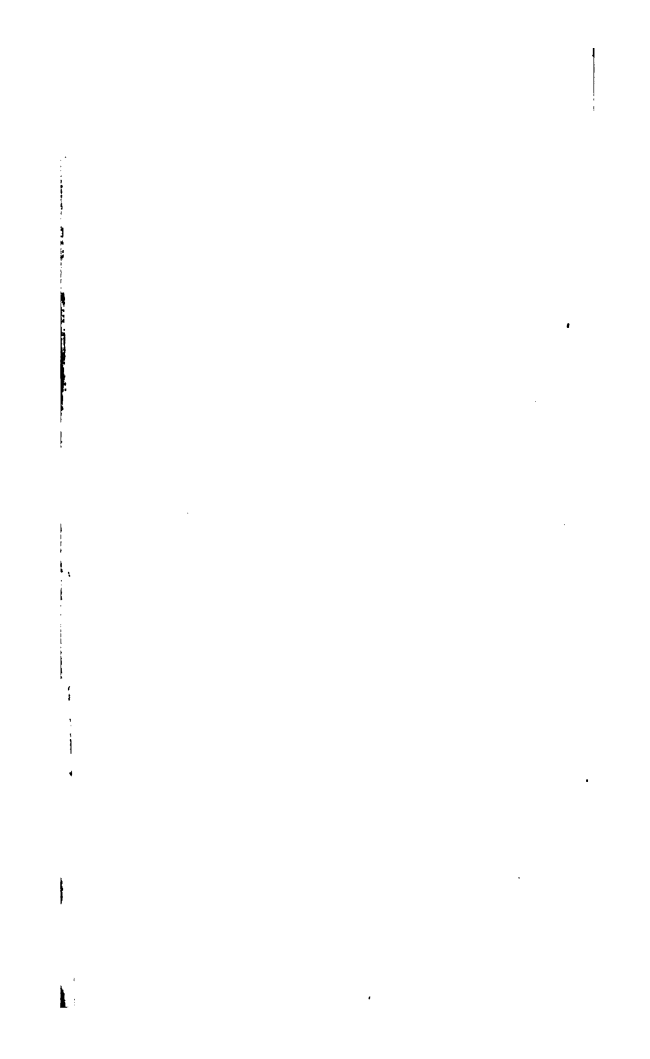
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tion, and I will remain amongst you. Your customs and your manners shall be mine ; they are those of Azili, and therefore I respect them."

The Peruvians knew not whether to accept or reject this proposition, it being a direct attack upon their religion ; but Villuma reconciled all. He proposed that for the future no one should be dedicated to the altar, but those who were of an age to understand their obligations ; and that they, who had been deceived by a premature zeal, might then return to the bosom of society. This law was unanimously adopted. Theodore and Azili vowed eternal constancy ; and they kept faith the they had plighted.

THE END.





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